The State Hornet

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See B4

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Online Now

STATEHORNET.COM

CSU faces mid-year cuts

By Sam Pearson
spearson@statehornet.com

Newly proposed mid-year cuts to the state budget could mean less funding to the California State University system, as the slumping economy takes its toll on state tax revenues.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the proposed cuts Nov. 6 and wants the Legislature to vote on them in its special session that is currently under way.

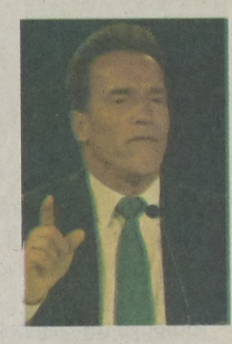
The governor proposed cutting an additional $66.3 million from the CSU budget, which he said needs to be done mid-year because the current budget assumed the state would take in more tax revenue than it currently is. To cover this shortfall, campuses could be forced to restrict enrollment, raise student fees, offer less classes and hire more part-time faculty.

The Board of Trustees is meeting today in Long Beach to consider declaring a system wide impaction, which would tighten admissions standards at all campuses in an effort to cut costs. Some high-demand CSU campuses have been in a state of impaction for years, as a high number of applications force them to use standards that are more stringent than other CSUs and offer priority to students that live near them. Having all campuses in an impacted state would shut out students who met the normal admissions standards, but not the enhanced ones.

Last year, 10,000 eligible students were turned away from the CSU system when the application deadlines were moved up as a response to proposed budget cuts.

Kevin Wehr, vice president of the California Faculty Association chapter at Sacramento State,

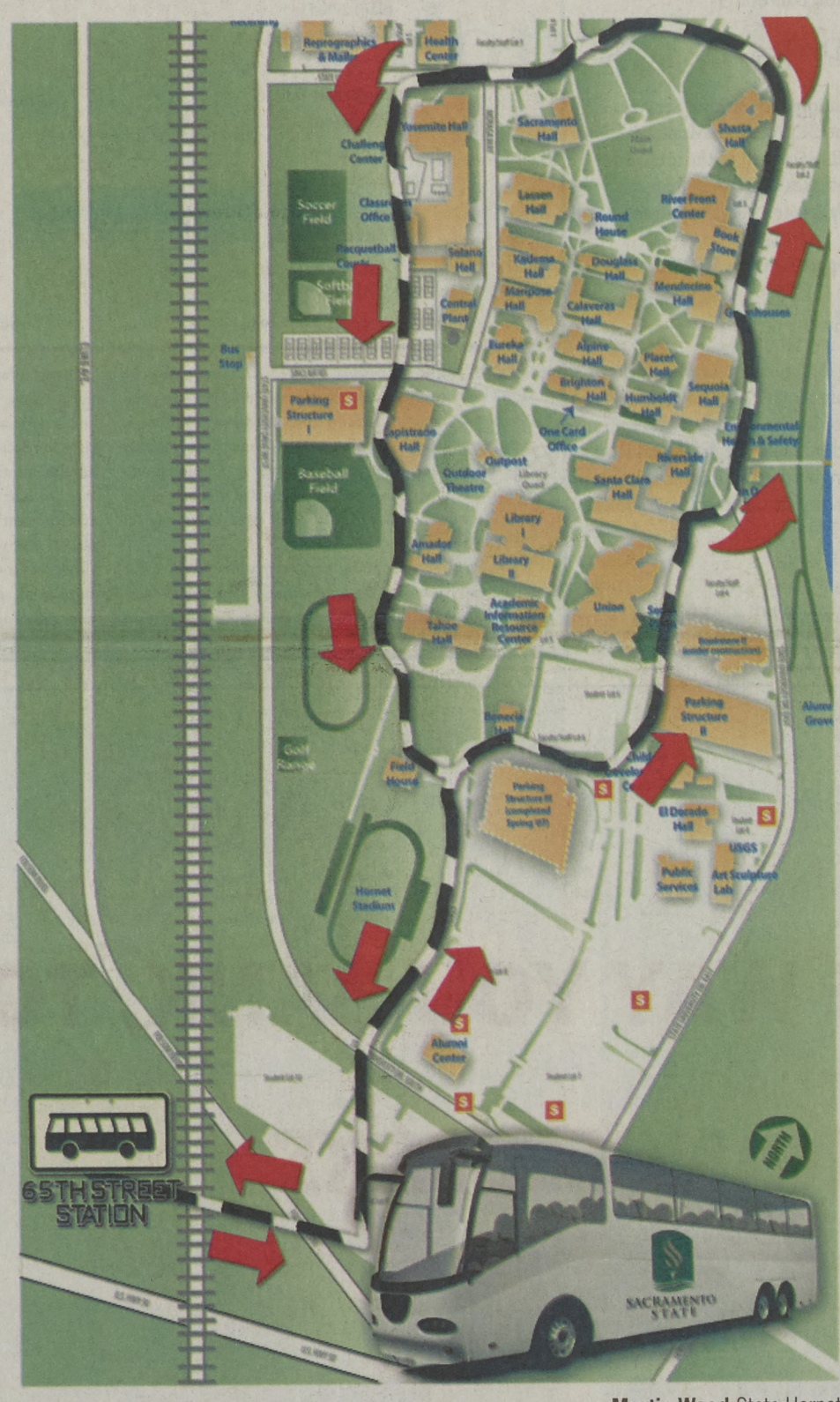
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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

Future uncertain for CSUS tram

Sac State and city of Sacramento unsure of completion date, details for joint tram project on campus



Martin Wood State Hornet

One proposal for the Sac State tram has is running from the 65th Street light rail station through campus. Under this plan, the tram would run through Serna Plaza on new roads.

By Derek Fleming
dfleming@statehornet.com

The city of Sacramento and Sacramento State have set clean and efficient public transportation as a priority to developing the local community and the campus. One current plan is to extend a tram system from the 65th Street light rail station through the Sac State campus.

Once completed, the tram will offer students, faculty and staff convenient access to campus from other major regional transit services, as well as encourage growth in the Folsom Boulevard and 65th Street neighborhoods.

While no route has yet been decided, a recent route proposal ran through Serna Plaza and separated Yosemite Hall from the tennis courts and sports fields. A fence would separate the roadway from the campus.

Ashley Koren, sophomore psychology major, said a roadway would spoil the Serna Center.

"This part of the campus has a prestigious feel to it," Koren said. "It is quaint and quiet, even when there are a lot of people around."

Koren said the idea of a tram to the light rail was a good idea, but the campus should come up with a better way of connecting. Koren suggested using existing roads.

Roy Rodriguez, junior nursing major, said he also felt the tram should be run on existing roads.

"Having the tram run through campus like that will disjoint the students connection to the campus," Rodriguez said.

University Enterprises, Inc. is organizing the funding and building of the tram. UEI expects the trams to be able to shuttle 3,500 to 5,000 people per day to and from the campus. They will use four or five buses specially designed to be quickly accessible.

"It won't be a big deal to have four buses driving around," said sophomore finance major Ambithn Bachan. "It won't be any different than when we are crossing any other street."

Kirat Baines, junior nutrition major, said having a reliable connection to the light rail will be worth the risk involved.

"We aren't kids," Baines said. "We can watch out for buses."

The tram initially was predicted to be operating limited routes this year, according to the City of Sacramento's General Plan 2030.

Alan Porter, senior Sacramento city planner, said the project has not gotten off the ground yet.

"I know that planning of the tram has not been finished," Porter said.

Sacramento's city plan is out-of-date in a number of development issues on campus. The plans show the Science II structure, though it is not correctly located on the map. Science II was expected to be completed this year, according to the city plans.

Since Science II was initially designed, both the location and the size of the Science II building have changed. The planned building site is now the staff parking lot next to the new bookstore. Inadequate funding has stalled the project before the designing process was complete.

The tram program has run into similar problems to those of the Science II complex: funding issues from a slow economy and no increase of funding to the CSU system.

Bridget Riley, coordinator of the tram project for the company, said cuts to the budget have pushed the start of construction off by at least a year.

"We are doing a preliminary ridership analysis and the environmental impact reports," Riley said.

She hopes to have a full report completed by next month.

"There is no decision yet on the route," Riley said. "We have a few different proposals and concepts we are working with."

Riley added that nothing was set in stone. The project will require

see **Tram** | page A5

"The whole purpose of this project is to help; not just to be in a pretty environment, not just to be in something that looks nice, but to actually help our schooling."

Sylvia Hull, senior interior design major

Imagine new room design

By Tamara Nazanda
tnazanda@statehornet.com

Ask any Sacramento student and he or she can tell you that although some classrooms on campus are beautiful, many are less than academically stimulating.

The students in professor D. R. Wagner's class, interior design 124D: Principles of House Design, have taken to the campus to find the worst classrooms for a project where they will photograph, redesign, and possibly even implement the changes they make to create a more stimulating and student-friendly space. They are set to finish their projects next week.

Wagner said his role in this class is not to teach students how far an end table should be from a couch, but to give them an understanding of why homes are designed the way they are.

Students are asked to gain understanding of design by looking back upon their childhood and thinking

see **Design** | page A5

Teams take 1st, 2nd in challenge

By Andres Cuevas Jr.
acuevas@statehornet.com

Students in the College of Engineering and Computer Science at Sacramento State took first and second place in the first Granite Collegiate Challenge last month in Sacramento.

Sac State took two teams of 10 students to the competition. The first place team was made up of all construction management students and the second place team was made up of half construction management students and half civil engineering students.

Matthew Ward, construction management major and captain of the team that earned first place, said he enjoyed working together with civil engineers.

"I really enjoyed working with the civil engineers because normally we don't work together on things like this," Ward said.



Courtesy Photo

Construction management students compete in material testing event in the Granite Collegiate Challenge last month.

see **Win** | page A8

NEWS ROUNDUP

Sacramento State's weekly news briefs and upcoming events at a glance.

Debate team wins

With more recent wins under its belt, the Sac State debate team continues to hold second place for debate in the region following behind UC Berkeley. The debate team's most recent wins came in its last tournament of the fall season at UOP.

The varsity team of Chantel Crane and David Rekow won the open division, taking first place after being undefeated in the preliminaries.

In the novice division, Katie Rupp and Gerald Clift were undefeated in preliminaries but lost on a 2-1 decision in the semi-finals. Rupp was named the top speaker in the novice division.

Police prepare campus

The University Police Department gave an "Active Shooter Notification and Response Options" presentation to teach students, faculty and staff what to do in case there is ever an active shooter incident on campus.

"Although the chances of something like this happening at Sac State are minimal, we still want everyone to be prepared so we're not caught off guard if anything happens," Chief Ken Barnett said.

Go to statehornet.com to read the tips on what to do in an active shooter incident on campus.

Upcoming Events:

ASI Town Hall Meeting

This week Associate Students, Inc. will host a Town Hall Meeting where students can address concerns and find out about ASI projects. Sandwiches will be provided while supplies last.

"It will be a great opportunity for students to tell ASI what they think. I really hope that students take advantage of the food and the undivided attention the board will give them at this event," said vice president Roberto Torres.

Where: University Union Lobby
When: Thursday, noon – 1:15 p.m.

Rock auction

The Sac State Geology Club will host its annual live and silent auction to raise money for student fees for



Courtesy Photo Sacramento State Public Affairs

field courses. The club will also donate funds to help make rock and mineral sample boxes for education purposes at local schools. The club raised more than $9,000 at last year's auction. The rock specimens will include garden rocks, fossils, gems, crystals, geodes, and various precious metals.

When: Friday, 6 p.m.
Where: University Union Ballroom I

Holiday Food Drive

University Transportation and Parking Services will host its Holiday Food Drive from Monday through Jan. 9 for families in need in the area. Every dollar donated purchases 2.5 pounds of food.

Make your checks payable to: State Employee Food Drive
Mail to: Nancy Fox, department zip 6076

Film Screening

Watch the surviving 35 minutes of the earliest known Asian American film, "Curse of the Quon Gwon," recently honored by the Library of Congress for inclusion in the National Film Registry. Oakland filmmaker Marion Wong wrote and directed the silent movie in 1916, starring her sister-in-law, Violet Wong.

When: Today
5 p.m. Reception, Auburn Room
6 p.m. Film screening, Hinde Auditorium

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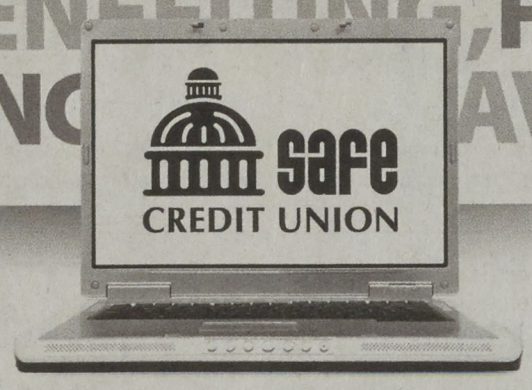
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Updike slams modern American fiction

By Derek Fleming
dfleming@statehornet.com

John Updike, an award-winning American author, faced difficult questions from a crowd of fans at the Crest Theatre in downtown Sacramento on Nov. 11.

Updike has been one of the most prolific and celebrated writers in the U.S. for several decades. He has won every major literary prize in the country. In addition to winning two Pulitzer Prizes, Updike is one of only a few people to have won both the National Medal of the Arts and the National Medal for Humanities.

Updike told the crowd that he finds modern American fiction boring. He said that current writers are not producing books that challenge readers.

"I think there aren't these books that are deeply meaningful and life-transforming," Updike said.

Updike explained that there were many factors affecting the lack of out-of-the-box fiction in mainstream publication.

"People don't read expecting to find this kind of experience anymore," Updike said. "It just isn't there. It is a questing time for a reader."

He said it could be "writers who are failing to write truly transforming or eye-opening material," but he laid part of the blame on readers.

"As a whole, we are losing the ability to respond to the kind of work in the way that certainly my parents and I did," Updike said. "I rarely read a book that gets me excited anymore. I used to read lots of them that got me very excited."

Updike added that changing mediums of technology have also impacted the art form of "the printed word."

"There is a way in which television and all the other electronic entertainments and distractions have made us stupid as far as the more slowly acquired and quiet pleasures and illuminations of fiction," Updike said.

Douglas Rice, associate English professor, agrees in part with Updike.

"I agree with him about television," Rice said. "The way young people experience the world is in a real condensed form. You need to take time to write and to read."

Rice did not agree with Updike about the lack of eye-opening writers.

"There are a bunch of writers who are pretty lame and pretty famous," Rice said. "It's not so much that there aren't writers - the mainstream press isn't publishing them."

Rice said the problem is American culture.

"Americans want everything to be the same. They want everything to conform," Rice said. "We see it in our architecture and our lifestyles. Updike is right about that."

Rice said the novels being published by the mainstream publishing companies are often painfully boring. He said these companies publish books like the Harry Potter series and Steven King, books that will sell a lot of copies regardless of whether they are good.

Rice said revolutionary work is being published by small companies.

"When Updike was a younger man, the mainstream press was publishing better books. That's what he's talking about. He's talking about the wrong thing," Rice added.

Michael Sutcliffe, teaching associate in English, said there are many young writers doing creative and challenging writing, including Rice.

Rice is the author of the novel "Blood of Mugwump," which, along with several other books, was brought before a 1997 congressional committee investigating obscenity in American literature.

Rosa Mills, junior child development major, said people, in general, aren't reading and therefore are not writing anymore.

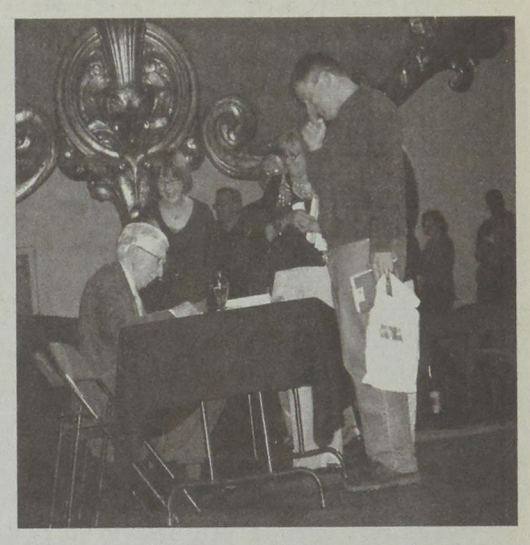
"I don't think I have any friends that read anything but textbooks," Mills said.

Ehren Anglin, mastering in teaching English to speakers of other languages, said "some people hate to read because of their experiences in school."

Updike was in Sacramento, hoping to get people to read. He was promoting his newest book, titled "The Widows of Eastwick." The novel is a sequel to his 1989 novel, "The Witches of Eastwick." Updike said it would likely be his last sequel.

Updike was introduced by Jonathan Price, Sac State English professor. Pam Houston, director of creative writing at University of California, Davis, asked prepared questions of Updike and had him read from his new book.

Price said he was surprised to hear Updike say he does not get the same thrill out of literature, and that Updike prefers writing short stories to novels.



Lindsey Yarbrough Special to The State Hornet

Award-winning author John Updike signs copies of his books at the Crest Theater on Nov. 11.

"I would have guessed otherwise, that was kind of interesting," Price said. "Personally, I think his novels are the great literary form and genre of all types."

Updike recently finished a compilation called "The Best American Short Stories of the Century."

Contact Derek Fleming in News department at (916) 278-7248.

Alumni estates donate big to Sac State

By Sally King
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While the California State University system is facing tough times financially due to the state's economic crisis, Sacramento State is doing well in the area of fundraising thanks to endowments from the estates of alumni.

Sac State received two gifts totaling $700,000 for the Office of University Advancement in October.

Alumna Nancy Pierce Owens, a former Associated Students Inc. vice president, left the school more than $400,000 from her estate. The money will benefit the Nancy Pierce Owens Memorial Scholarship Endowment for undergraduate students in the College of Education.

Another alumna, who was the associate vice-president for Academic Affairs, Earline Ames, left $300,000 to Sac State to benefit students studying to be teachers.

Fran Baxter-Guigli, director of Development Operations, said all of the money received this fiscal year, which began in July, has been for student scholarships.

Rebecca Thompson, associate vice president for development, said many donors were first-generation college graduates and attributed their successful careers to having college degrees.

Thompson said because many alumni worked their way through school and remember how difficult it could be at times, they see gifting money to the students as a way to make school a little easier.

"Around 60 percent of current students work 30 hours or more while attending school," Thompson said.

While the two, large gifts received in October are from the estates of deceased alumni, living alumni are also giving.

"I enjoy going to the Sac State baseball games, so I started a scholarship program for baseball players that were receiving business degrees," Jack Bertolucci, a Sac State alumnus said.

Bertolucci started the scholarship after he noticed no members of the baseball team were pursuing business degrees. He said he thinks it is important for students to get business degrees because he feels getting his degree in business gave him the opportunity to become successful as a mortgage banker. Bertolucci recently started a scholarship program for soccer players for the same reason.

Sac State actively pursues these types of donations from alumni.

Thompson said development directors meet regularly with alumni to ensure the opportunity to give to the school is always available.

Thompson said the development department has been watching for a dip in giving because of the struggling economy. Individuals have been giving the same amount of money to the school as in the past, while corporations have been giving a little less, she said.

Over the last three years, Thompson said Sac State has met their goal of $16.9 million a year. Last year the university received $17.3 million. She said the school is on track to meet the same goal this year.

Thompson said operations is trying to keep in touch with the alumni to keep them informed of all the events happening on campus.

"Our goal is to have Sac State be the alumnus philanthropic organization of their choice," Baxter-Guigli said.

Baxter-Guigli said the gifts are a testimony to how much people value education.

"It is our obligation to use gifts accordingly. I think if that person came back in a year or two, would he or she be happy with how we used the money?" Baxter-Guigli said. "The best things these special alums want to do is just visit and then know what is happening at their alma mater."

Contact Sally King in News department at (916) 278-7248.

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Leaders prepare for future of education

By Amanda Pollard
apollard@statehornet.com

At around 5:45 p.m. on a Friday night, a classroom is alive with the sounds of conversation and laughter and the smell of pizza. It's not a party, but students involved in the first doctorate program at Sacramento State. The Educational Leadership Program is home to a small group of 15 students who have received undergraduate and master's degrees, and many are already working in education.

This is only the second year in which Sac State is offering an Independent Education Doctorate. Carlos Nevarez, director of the program, said the mission of the program is to prepare executive educational leaders that will lead K-12 schools as well as community colleges.

"Our intention is to develop not your typical traditional leader, but a leader that leads with a transformational leadership approach," Nevarez said.

The way the program aims to perfect the student's leadership skills is to educate them on policy analysis and informed decision-making.

"Once we provide them with these areas of knowledge we feel these leaders will lead our schools and colleges in an effective way," Nevarez said.

The program utilizes group settings in order to foster a better understanding of how to work as a team. Each year a group of 15 students make up a cohort. Throughout the three-year program, this cohort stays together through classes and research work. Sac State welcomed its second cohort this year.

Elk Grove High School's principal and student in the program Hasan Abdulmalik feels that the cohort helps develop an understanding of others' views because the students are not segmented. In addition, Abdulmalik feels the program is able to compete on a level with other programs at what may be viewed as more prestigious institutions.

"One of the things about the programs in the University of California system is they are research based. We are practitioners. We are going to come together and work with hands on knowledge. That's going to contribute to the educational leadership," Abdulmalik said.

In addition to fostering leadership, Nevarez said the program is about developing change in education.

Students in the program come from a variety of backgrounds. Teachers, principals, superintendents, and politicians are enrolled and hoping to learn more about a new approach to education.

Willie Armstrong, chief-of-staff for Assemblywoman Anna Caballero D-Salinas, is a student in the program and feels that this opportunity will allow a better understanding of those in education and what they need to achieve.

"I want people to understand we cannot legislate in a one size fits all fashion. What may work in a Los Angeles-type division may not work here in Sacramento," Armstrong said.

Nevarez said his hopes for the program include the students developing research that makes a difference.

"That's going to be bold. To come up with innovative practices and have a visionary mindset is going to increase the educational output of our students," Nevarez said.

Milton Rosa, math teacher from Encina High School and a student in the program, said in addition to integrating leadership and policy issues, the students are learning about diversity.

"You have to learn to accept all different points of view. We had a class on diversity. People come from different places and have different values, so we have to understand all these things to work together," Rosa said.

Nevarez said the program uses faculty members from the Public Policy Administration department and the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Department.

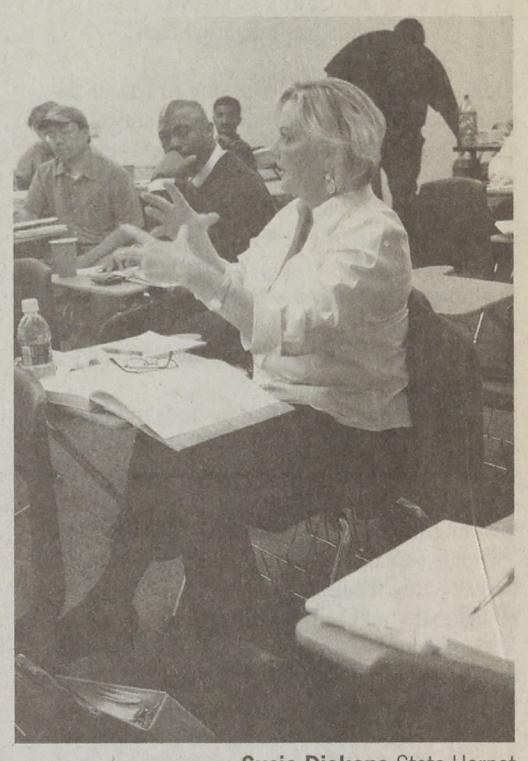
"A unique part of this program is the faculty from throughout the campus. Students tell us that bringing in faculty has helped them develop their own critical analytic fields. That adds to developing the prospective educational leaders," Nevarez said.

Rosa also said the program is helping him to see the educational world on a larger field which enables him to apply what he learns in many areas.

"This helps me to see the whole school, not just my classroom. I can see the big picture more clearly and even see the school district as a part of it all. I want to apply what I'm learning to not only my classroom, but everywhere," Rosa said.

The students all have high hopes for their time in the doctorate program. Students like Carolyn Nichols , assistant superintendent of Instructional Services at the Loomis Union School District, feel the program will not only benefit the students but in turn benefit the various communities they return to.

"I want to be the best I can be. And that means having a wealth of knowledge and bringing it back to the district. I am a huge fan of this program and all it's going to accomplish," Nichols said.



Susie Dickens State Hornet

Students in the education doctorate program discuss education issues at a class meeting.

Contact Amanda Pollard in News department at (916) 278-7248.

Budget: CSU looks at $66 million mid-year cut in state funding

Continued | page A1

said that limiting enrollment and cutting funding did not make sense.

"Higher education enrollment is countercyclical to the economy," Wehr said.

Schwarzenegger is proposing furloughing state workers - requiring employees to take an unpaid leave for one day each month.

The governor is also proposing a temporary 1.5 percent state sales tax increase, which would revert to its previous level after three years. He also wants to expand the sales tax to include additional items not currently taxed, like furniture repair, vehicle repair, golf and veterinarian services, as well as amusement parks and sporting events.

Keith said the furloughs would not apply to CSU employees.

The governor's proposal has the Alliance for the CSU, the group that helped avert most of Schwarzenegger's proposed cuts last year, mobilizing to protect the money it prevented from being cut just months ago from being wiped away.

"Students are really going to be in rough shape," said Lila Jacobs, president of the Sac State CFA chapter and an organizer for the Alliance for the CSU.

Jacobs said that despite the grim statistics, she believes that they can stop the governor's plan from passing.

"We can't rely on the politicians to be the ones who make the difference," Jacobs said. "We have to put pressure."

Relations between the Alliance for the CSU and the Chancellor's Office have cooled since CSU Chancellor Charles Reed returned $31.3 million of this year's funding to the state earlier this month. As state revenues were declining, Reed returned the money to help the state minimize its shortfall. Jacobs said that Reed may have been "pressured," but the move was inexcusable.

"I really think he should have fought for us, especially given that he's been a part of the Alliance," Jacobs said. "I think we all felt betrayed."

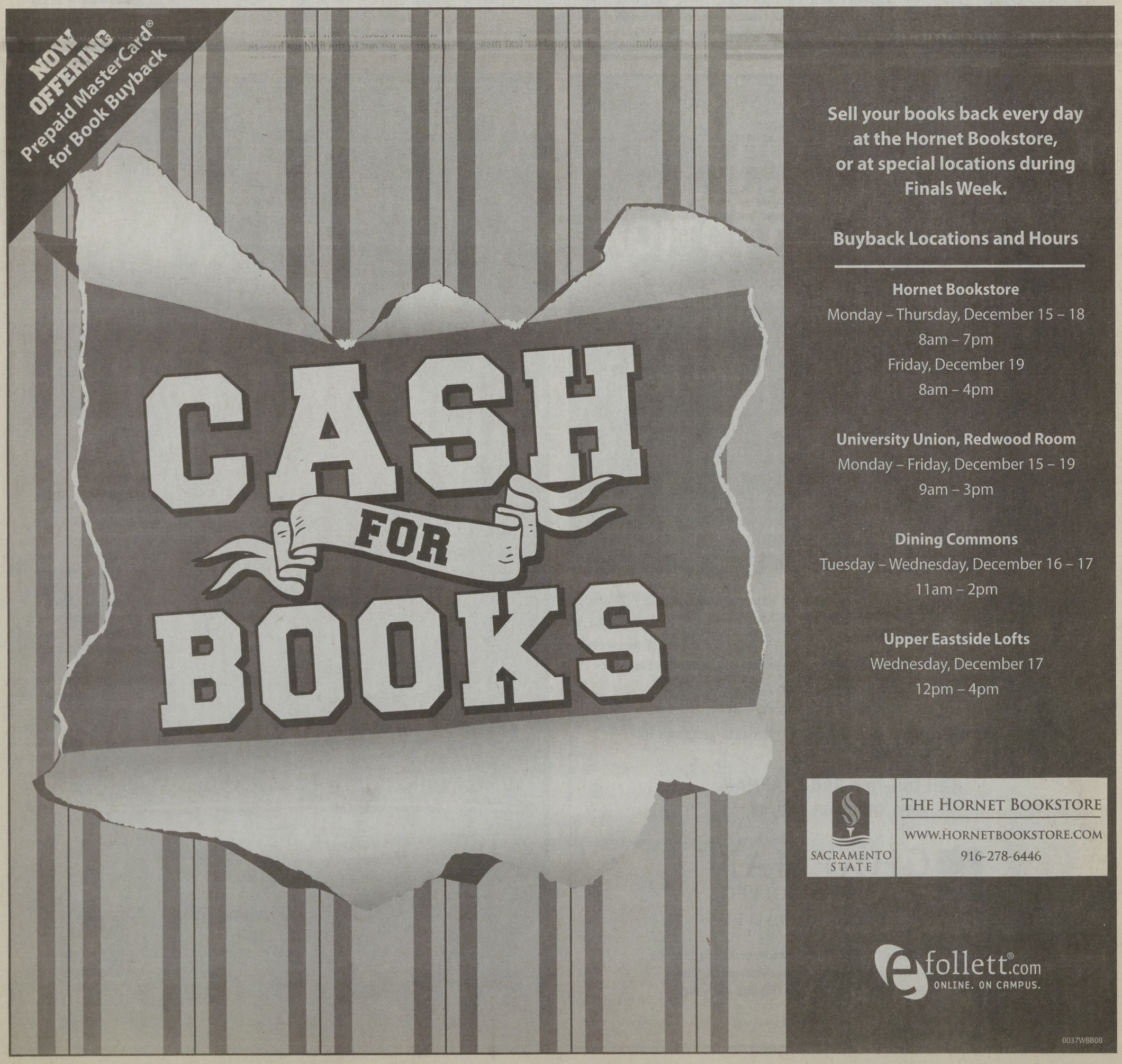
Keith said that the CSU system was asked to make the move by the state Department of Finance.

Because of the incident, Jacobs said Alliance for the CSU plans to target the Chancellor's Office in its push to reduce the budget cuts, rather than in the past, when they have been able to work together.

Wehr said it was becoming more apparent that the state's bleak budget situation would be a continuing problem over the next several years. The state's nonpartisan budget analyst this week called the state's finances "truly awful."

"Here we are 11 months on," Wehr said, "and it's the same old story."

Contact Sam Pearson in News department at (916) 278-7248.



"Having the tram run through campus like that will disjoint the students' connection to the campus."

Roy Rodriguez, junior nursing major

Tram: To run by 2010 throughout Sac State

Continued | page A1

funding for construction and planning, money that is not available in the current budget. The company may know if the project can continue as soon as May 2009.

Funding has come in spurts to the tram project. State and federal grants for construction and planning have totaled $1.7 million. According to the Sacramento Business Journal, the tram project could cost more than $20 million to complete.

UEI and PB Engineering, the firm contracted to work on the project, remain optimistic about having the Sac State portion of the tram completed by 2010.

Cindy Collins, UEI project manager said in an interview with the Sacramento Business Journal, 2010 was an ambitious time line to complete the project.

"We are sticking to it," Collins said.

Construction of dedicated roadways for the tram around campus are estimated to take one year, according to PB Engineering. Planning could also take a year. Funding is unpredictable, and could tangle the project up for much longer.

Sac State has applied for federal funding totaling $2.4 million. These funds would be applied to purchasing the trams.

The city plans on having the tram as an integral component in an effort to revitalize the community around the 65th Street light rail station. An extension of Ramona Avenue will provide a direct route for trams to reach the light rail station without impeding traffic on Folsom Boulevard.

Construction of this extension could be many years off. The plan will require the excavation of two tunnels, one beneath Highway 50, and the other beneath the Southern Pacific railroad tracks. An existing tunnel, called Hornet's Crossing, has been deemed inadequate for the purposes of a tram.

Additional construction in the Folsom and 65th Street area will bring mixed-use high-rise buildings and retail shops. City planners are attempting to create a college-town feel with a Midtown look. Plans call for generous sidewalks, street parking, and space for outdoor cafes. The Ramona Avenue extension is being designed as a tree-lined, pedestrian-friendly link to Sac State.

The extension will create a new main entrance to Sac State, labeled the "Green Gateway" in city documents. Currently called Stadium Drive, changes to this road would necessitate accounting for the tram and the increased pedestrian traffic.

Project planners envision a bus-like tram with subway car-style doors. Clean energy buses would reduce emissions in accordance with the Destination 2010 initiative, as well as provide a quiet and convenient transportation system to the campus.

Riley and Porter said planning is continuing on the project, despite a difficult financial future.



Contact Derek Fleming in News department at (916) 278-7248.

Design: Rooms not set up for learning

Continued | page A1

about the places they liked most when they were children.

"These places impact how one perceives spaces in their own homes," Wagner said. "For a designer to be able to access that sort of information from a client, for instance, changes how you approach a design job. As part of that, I'm trying to get them to communicate better as far as what an ideal situation might be and, furthermore, to find what sort of restraints are operable in any given situation."

Wagner's project started with students visiting classrooms around campus to choose the ones they felt needed to be redesigned most. Students then took photos of them in groups and looked at the photos to determine what could be changed. Next, they created a board that showed, if it were the best of all possible worlds, how they would change the classrooms and why.

"Then I asked them to go further with that to say what was possible, because we know a lot of the suggestions they come up with we just can't use in a situation like that because the university probably wouldn't allow it," Wagner said.

Wagner said that it is important for students to learn to work with constraints because it is basic to all of design.

"The more constraints that you're able to exercise on a particular project, the better you're able to visualize it and the better you're able to incorporate ideas because designers are always working for someone else. It's much different than an artist or an architect who work for themselves. Many architects don't even consider what the building is going to be used for," he said.

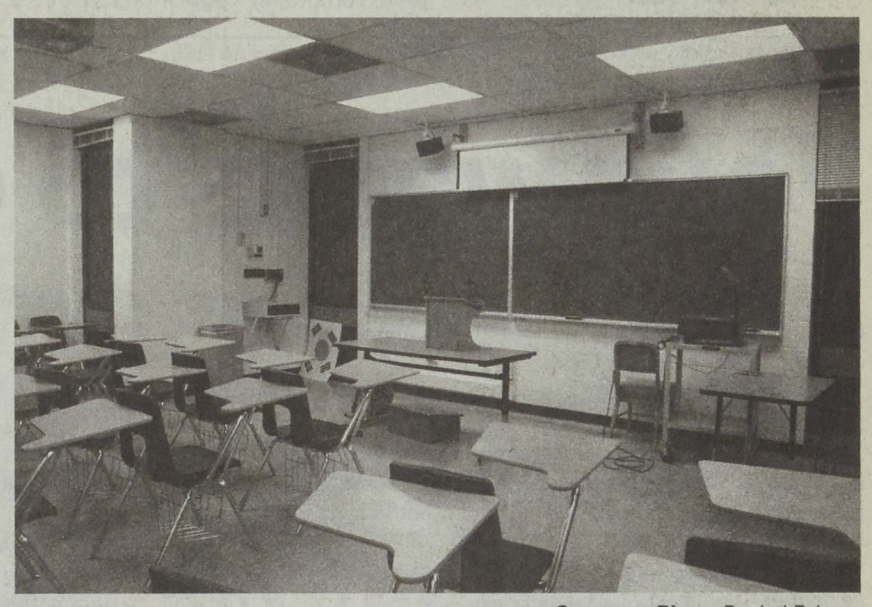
The students in the home design class believe that this was a pivotal point in the project because it relates to the real world.

"I think if we had gone one way or the other it wouldn't have been anywhere near as effective as a project," said Christina Barrington, senior interior design major.

One of the most difficult challenges students have faced in redesigning the classrooms include working with stationary objects like chalkboards, windows and columns, without compromising the number of students able to fit into the rooms.

Senior interior design student Rebecca Romer's group chose Amador Hall 162 for its project.

"The way they have it set up now, there are a couple of desks that are right behind the columns, which is good for text messaging or sleeping, but maybe not for learning," Romer said.



Courtesy Photo Rachel Fulmer

Students in the design class said classrooms, like Amador Hall 162, are poor learning environments. Problems include poor lightening and use of space.

The groups in Wagner's class have come up with some creative changes and improvements, which include designing a mock window for a windowless classroom, changing wall colors and floor materials and bringing in plants and different kinds of seating.

Wagner wants his students to find ways around what seems to be the inevitable feeling of isolation in classrooms.

"There is a reason they call the academic situation the ivory tower, because there's no feedback from beyond the class," Wagner said. "No one's going to pay us to do this and it's a chance for them to really exercise with something that could happen in the real world and at this university."

The current state of classrooms, according to Wagner, hardly promotes a sense of intimacy.

"You don't necessarily know who's in the class with you because you're lined up in ranks. So who's in the class, and how can you see the class? I'm the only one who can see everybody. That's boring for me and for students," Wagner said.

Students in Wagner's class think that students and professors alike can benefit from a more interactive setting.

Barrington said the seclusion of classrooms hinder students' performance in the future in dealing with the public.

"It doesn't teach us how to network. The instant we get out in the field we have to know people, know how to talk to them, introduce ourselves, express ideas, and we don't know what to do when that happens," Barrington said.

Sylvia Hull, senior interior design and marketing major, believes that the whole purpose of this project is to stimulate better academics.

"It's been proven that color enhances brain activity. Whether it's a lecture or it's a discussion, students need things to let their eyes rest upon on the walls as they're listening to the teacher, or when they are in discussion, facing each other and feeding off each other," Hull said. "That's the whole purpose of this project is to help; not just to be in a pretty environment, not just to be in something that looks nice, but to actually help our schooling."

Hull believes that the environment of these classrooms can be improved with little to no effort in order to enhance learning.

"I know that's the purpose of this university or else we wouldn't be here," Hull said. "It's just unfortunate that we pay money to come here and it could be enhanced so much more. We could be getting so much more out of it just by simple things, even if it's just paint on the walls and rearranging furniture."

Contact Tamara Nazanda in News department at (916) 278-7248.

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EDITORIAL

Four weeks to go; let's finish strong

We have collectively been trudging through this semester and the end is in sight. In just a few weeks, we will complete our final exams and will enjoy our winter break.

That means a full month of drunken dubachery, partying and minimal responsibilities.

But until then, let's try and recommit ourselves to our classes. It is so easy to skip lectures, escpecially when some professors put their lecture notes and podcasts on SacCt, but let's get our money's worth.

We already paid the fees for this semester, we may as well squeeze every dime out of this place that we can.

The State Hornet understands the tempations at this point in the year. Family members who we actually care about are coming to town, we are trying to work extra shifts to pay for Christmas gifts and we're all just drained.

However, we must agree not to make excuses for ourselves and put in the work necessary to pass our classes.

It's not easy to stay focused, we understand that.

No one at the Hornet would be foolish enough to say it's simple to keep taking diligent notes and participate in all classes, but we all knew what we were in for when we signed up at the start of the semester.

We can hold each other accountable. Next time you hear students complain about their workloads to the teacher, mock them in front of everyone.

Confront them about the college experience, and ask them if they would prefer to play Connect Four and take a nap instead.

Seriously, the complaining needs to stop. Our educators ask a lot of us, but that's life. College is just preparing us for what life is really like.

If we think we are going to be able to complain to our bosses about how much work we have to do, we are going to spend most of our lives looking for another job.

Four weeks people. We've all been through more than a decade of schooling. A month is nothing, it's like a cup full of water in the ocean. We could virtually do it standing on our heads.

So let's all pull together and end this semester the right way. No more sleeping in and missing class. No more half-assed excuses for not turning in assignments.

This editorial is not trying to take an imposing tone or attempting to become a teacher's pet. All the Hornet wants to do is remind its readers that the end is near and this is no time to stop trying.

Take one day at a time and the semester will be finished before you know it.

Besides, the reward at the end of the journey is more worthwhile when we had to struggle to achieve it.

Nothing worth doing is easy. The Hornet wants all Sacramento State students to take deep breaths and not lose sight of what's important.

With that being said, many of our editors and reporters skipped classes this week to produce this paper.

'Call of Duty' on Xbox, life's greatest joy



Princess Calabrese

The country has elected its first black president. Californians have been demonstrating across the state in opposition to and in support of Proposition 8. Amidst the political chaos, one would think that this space could be used to write about something significant. Maybe a piece on what I foresee with the new presidency, or even a little commentary on Prop. 8. But to tell you the truth, politics is the last thing on my mind lately. Why so? Five words: Call of Duty: World at War. I can't pinpoint the reason, but I can't seem to get enough of the digital world of imaginary mayhem.

Now before you go on thinking that I'm some hardcore gamer, let me assure you that is not the case. I am nowhere near what any reasonable person would call talented with the controller.

In fact, just until a few months ago I was so bad at video games that I would literally get stuck on corners. Then I discovered what I consider even more addicting than spending money that I don't have: playing Call of Duty on Xbox LIVE. And apparently I am not the only online gaming addict. There are more than 6 million members on Xbox LIVE, according to Xbox's website. I'll admit that figure makes me feel less pathetic.

I never imagined myself as a gamer, especially the "let's-go-shoot-some-guys-for-fun" type of gamer. I always thought video games with the main purpose of killing other players were disgustingly violent. Isn't it morally wrong to kill someone? Why would someone even want to pretend to kill another person? How could killing in any way be fun?

Oh, but how wrong I was. There's something about crouching down, sneaking around the corner, zooming in to hit a target, and earning 10 points for each successful kill that makes me giddy inside.

I accept that that statement may have made me sound like a psychopathic murderer, but those who have played Call of Duty LIVE understand.

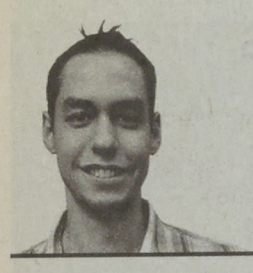
There's nothing like the rush of earning a five-kill streak to call in a friendly artillery strike.

So here's to you, my fellow Call of Duty fanatics. I admit that at first I was too naïve, too judgmental to understand your love for the game. Fortunately, I came to my senses and realized that playing violent video games does not make me a violent person. After all, I honestly would never have the guts to shank people in real life.

Contact Princess Calabrese in the Opinion department at (916) 278-7567.

'Big 3' bailout: Hit the gas or pump the brakes?

Ford, General Motors and Chrysler need our help to get back on track and make America strong again



Kyle Kershner

If the Big Three collapses, it would be a devastating blow to the economy and would affect us all, as one in 10 American jobs is related to the automotive industry. That is why a bailout is necessary.

This week, Congress may consider giving the auto industry part of the $700 billion Wall Street bailout during a lame-duck session, according to the Associated Press.

There is no perfect solution here, but a bailout seems to make the most sense to help avoid yet another gut-punch to the economy.

We're talking about an industry that supports millions and millions of people. A collapse would trigger significant ramifications. The government must be aware of this - they were right there to bail out Wall Street, now they should step up and assist the automakers.

President-elect Barack Obama said that stabilizing the auto industry was a high priority for his team, and he and President George W. Bush discussed the broad health of the industry, according to the Detroit Free Press.

General Motors, Ford, Chrysler and the United Auto Workers have asked for $50 billion in aid for the industry. Half will be used for general business, while the other half will be used for retiree health care, according to the Detroit Free Press.

The Associated Press recently reported that the collapse of the Big Three, or even just General Motors, could initiate a snowball effect in the economy, eliminating up to 3 million jobs and holding back more than $150 billion in tax revenue to the government.

The companies clearly need help. The price of GM shares have dropped rougly 90 percent and is now considered a "junk" stock.

With the aid of the government, it doesn't necessarily have to be the be-all, end-all for the automakers. Restructuring, including consolidation of engineering and design, as well as making the plants more efficient would definitely help them get back on the right track.

It might require laying people off, but that number is nowhere close to the three million that would lose jobs as a result of the collapse.

Chairman for the Center of Automotive Research David Cole said Detroit is losing money because there are too many factories making more vehicles than the market is buying. GM also has too many product lines that overlap and compete with one another, which ends up hurting the company.

Cole said auto makers will see more profits (about $2,000 per vehicle) as the factory cuts take effect because there won't be nearly as many excess vehicles.

There is the chance that, with some help from the government, the total destruction of the Big Three can be avoided, and these auto makers can get back on the right track.

Contact Kyle Kershner in the Opinion department at (916) 278-7567.

The Big Three have been shoddily run and yet another bailout would only delay the inevitable



Jordan Guinn

Ray Zalinsky of "Tommy Boy" said it best, "America's in a state of renewal. We've gotta have the strength to tie a few factories to a tree and bash 'em with a shovel."

Let the invisible hand of the free market slap some sense into Ford, Chrysler and General Motors. This is easy to write from thousands of miles away, but the facts speak for themselves.

These companies have been terribly run for the better part of two generations. When the country faced a gas shortage in the early 1970s, the automakers ignored the warning and continued to churn out gas-guzzling behemoths. To this day, the leaders of the companies seem oblivious to consumers' wants and needs.

America needs a strong industrial base. No country can be self-sufficient without one. Unfortunately, the crumbling automotive industry is virtually all that remains of our once booming industrially-based economy.

But using taxpayer money to prop up poorly-run businesses is not the answer.

There is no simple solution to this problem. If we bail out the Big Three, then General Motors will likely merge with Chrysler and hundreds of thousands of jobs will be lost. If the free market is allowed to do its thing, at least one of the trio will file for bankruptcy. That scenario will also see hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of jobs lost.

But bankruptcy may not be the worst option at this point. Part of the reason the American automakers are in so much trouble is because it pays its workers too much to be competitive.

The United Auto Workers has slowly been killing the state of Michigan for decades now. Workers have benefits and pay that is unmatched throughout the automotive industry. While that is admirable in theory, the Big Three do not sell enough vehicles to cover its overhead.

The bailout would actually set Michigan backwards. It's not naïve optimism to say that Detroit can rebuild. As the people in Southern California know right about now, when you have to start over at the foundation, you can build it back the way it should be. If the country needs change, Michigan needs an overhaul.

Even though he is not calling the shots yet, President-elect Barack Obama needs to request more from the Big Three than just fuel-efficiency standards. We need to destroy some union contracts and get rid of the clueless suits who ran these companies into the ground.

The bailout is a lose-lose situation. Bankruptcy will cost jobs and is an undeniably cruel fate for the workers who are in no way responsible for the manufacturers failures, but it may be the most sensible option for Michigan in the long run. Sometimes you have to cut off the hand to save the arm.

Contact Jordan Guinn in the Opinion department at (916) 278-7567.

Automotive Meltdown

OVERVIEW

The Big Three are automakers General Motors, Ford and Chrysler. Collectively, the companies employ millions of people and supply retirement and health benefits for its workers. In 1965, the state of Michigan passed the Public Employee Relations Act, giving unions incredible power and providing workers with outstanding benefits.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

The United Auto Workers has forced the American automakers to grant employee benefits that are killing the industry. They cannot remain competitive. The Big Three are burning through cash at a record rate. The credit market is tanking and the public believes American cars are poorly built and have a low resale value.

WORST CASE SCENARIO: WITHOUT BAILOUT

At least one of the Big Three will collapse under its own weight, millions of jobs will be lost and the American psyche will be dealt a blow that it may never fully recover from. Detroit would also slump deeper into economic futility and possibly turn into the wasteland it was depicted to be in the "Robocop" movies.

WORST CASE SCENARIO: WITH BAILOUT

If GM and Chrysler do not merge, at least one of the companies would lie in financial ruin and likely need another bailout within a year. If GM and Chrysler were to merge, the new company would shed jobs, product lines and dealerships, resulting in hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of jobs lost.

'Fireside Chats' to YouTube, the public needs reassurance



Briana Monasky

Everything is cyclical. Or at least it seems that way in what we wear, what we drive, and whom we elect for the highest office.

I keep on coming back to those Fireside Chats, a series of 30 informative and informal speeches Franklin Delano Roosevelt began in the beginning of his term. In 1933, the world was in shambles, the economy was right there with it, and people were panicking over it.

Sound familiar? It should.

Listening to the first one, entitled 'On the Banking Crisis,' showed parallels of Obama's charismatic style of leadership, like a daddy that sits his children down to calm them about something they don't quite understand.

"We had a bad banking situation," Roosevelt said. "Some of our bankers had shown themselves either incompetent or dishonest in their handling of the people's funds. They had used the money entrusted to them in speculations and unwise loans."

The first chat alone broke down how deposits to a bank actually work, that they are merely investments into larger things, and that the panic withdrawals were one of the reasons the banks collapsed in the first place.

The way Roosevelt calmed the nation worked in 1933 and all the way through 29 other Fireside Chats. Here we are in 2008 with a situation quite similar, with even our Big Three automakers looking dismally close to ending their reign as American auto kings.

Are these fireside chats applicable to our nation now? Will President-Elect Obama bring back this retro form of reassurance?

Obama announced Friday that his radio addresses would appear on to YouTube.com starting Jan. 20.

Every president has some form of a weekly radio address to the nation. I've never heard them. What station are they playing it on?

The answer is White House radio. The addresses are recorded in the Cabinet Room, just feet from the Oval Office, according to the White House's website.

Obama seems to be the first to try to reach the nation with his weekly addresses, certainly the first to enable his words to end up embedded on a Myspace page.

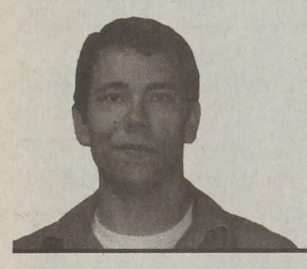
It's like we're all in this together. This nation is ours. The problems surrounding us in this troubled time apply to all of us. And we all have a hand in making it better.

President Roosevelt ended his first chat remarking, "It is your problem no less than it is mine. Together we cannot fail."

Now what will Obama say?

Contact Briana Monasky in the Opinion department at (916) 278-7567.

Hopefully we elected a world leader, not just a celebrity



Matt Rascher

I feel conflicted after this past election. Part of me is happy to see so many people turn out to vote and support democracy.

But the other part of me is worried because so many people turned out to vote whether they knew if they were supporting democracy or not. I have suspicions that a lot of the people who recently voted did so for the wrong reasons. They voted because their candidate was black or because he wasn't.

Of course a lot of people out there knew the issues and knew where each candidate stood on those issues. They didn't let race or party decide which way they were going to vote, they decided on who they thought would be best for the job. That's the way it should be, that's the way our democratic system is supposed to work. This isn't American Idol; it's not a popularity contest. At least it's not supposed to be.

I work at the biggest mall in Sacramento and attend Sacramento State, so I see the youth of this city quite a lot. In all the time leading up to the election not once did I see anyone, much less anyone under the age of 25, wearing a T-shirt with John McCain's face on it.

However, I did see countless people wearing shirts plastered with Barack Obama's face though, it has become more of a fashion trend then a political statement. Every time I see someone wearing an Obama shirt I wonder if they really know what he stands for or if they're just trying to look cool?

It doesn't stop with Obama however; plenty of people blindly voted for McCain as well. Sure, they don't have the trendy designer clothing to show their party allegiance, but 48 percent of this country still voted for him.

There were 58 million people who still voted for McCain and I know not all of them did so based on his policies. A friend of mine who has family in Texas recently told me that her dad was planning on voting for McCain. He doesn't necessarily like McCain, but is much more averse to the thought of having a black man, who he assumed is Muslim, in office.

One example of my mistrust in the youth of America and their support for Obama is simple. Just last week I was in a movie theater and four teenagers were escorted out of the film right in the middle of it. They almost quietly left their seats and made their way out not causing any kind of disruption or disturbance to the audience.

Right as the last teenager was about to leave, she screamed out for everyone to hear, "Obama!" Of course this doesn't make any sense in any way you look at it, but it is this absurd line of thinking that has me worried.

Do I really want someone to vote on the future of this country who would get kicked out of a movie and then in some show of mock defiance yell out the name of the pseudo-celebrity, President-elect Obama?

NO! Large voter turnouts are not great, who cares if a lot of people show up to vote if they don't know why they're voting? I would rather have a smaller, more informed voter turnout, than one full of sheep.

Obama may well have been the best choice for president in this past election but do a lot of the people who voted for him know why?

Contact Matt Rascher in the Opinion department at (916) 278-7567.

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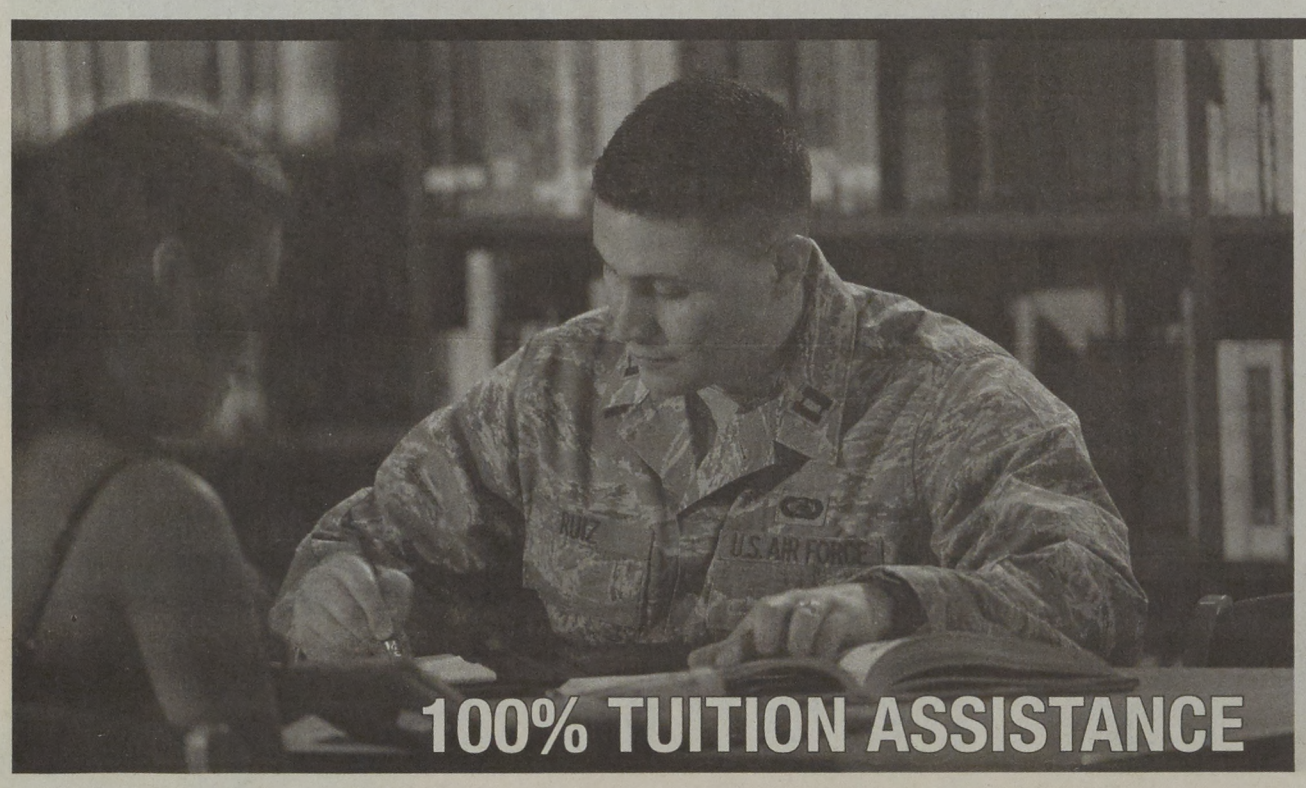
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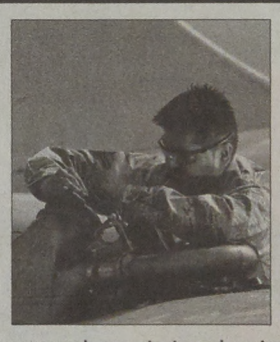
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Win: Teams put together last minute, met night before competition

Continued | page A1

Ward said the competition was challenging but interesting at the same time and was something in which he could apply the knowledge he learned in classes into real life.

"There were six different events and they were all very tactical and took different skills in order to succeed," Ward said.

There were eight other schools besides Sac State competing: UC Davis, University of the Pacific, San Francisco State, San Jose State, Chico State, Fresno State, California Polytechnic State University, and Santa Clara University.

Mikael Anderson, professor of construction management, encouraged his students to do this challenge and accompanied the teams as an adviser along with Ramzi Mahmood, professor of civil engineering, who advised a team himself.

"The teams came together at the last minute and they couldn't prepare for the challenges due to the way it was set up," Mahmood said.

Anderson said the teams were set up not very long before the event and students had no way to prepare for the competition.

"The students that participated in the event had no preparation for the six challenge problems, as these problems were introduced as the competition began," Anderson said.

Anderson also said that some of the students on the teams didn't even know each other before the competition began.

"Many of the students first met one another the night before the competition, yet they were still able to adapt and work well as a 10-person team," Anderson said.

The competition set each team up with six challenges and teams earned points based on how well they did on each individual challenge.

The challenges included equipment operation, which was to place four tennis balls in a backhoe bucket; quality control and quality assurance testing, which was to check asphalt density; quantity take-off, estimate and schedule, which was a sample project; GPS model and grade setting, which was to survey a sidewalk, curb and gutter for an intersection; aggregate and hot mix problem, which was to measure material; and also safety awareness, which was to evaluate a construction equipment accident.

Emir Macari, dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, said he was very proud of what the students accomplished at the challenge. He said this helps promote the school.

"These accomplishments allow me to showcase the tremendous contributions we are making to our region and our society," Macari said.

Macari gives credit to both the students as well as the faculty for the great accomplishments.

"Our students come from working class families and appreciate and understand what it takes to make it in today's world. Also, the (high) quality of our faculty members who really dedicate their lives to educating and training our students," Macari said.

Mahmood said he believes that the fact that Sac State's programs focus on practical applications of skills in the field sets it apart from other schools.

"Students in our department, especially the construction management majors, have a great chance to actually work in the industry as a student," Mahmood said.

Ward said that the big difference between Sac State and other schools are the amount of industries accessible in Sacramento and how it facilitates students making connections with the industry.

"Most students in our department either get internships with companies or at least have a connection with an industry for after graduation," Ward said.

He also said that professors in the construction management department are mostly part time instructors who continue to work in the industry while they teach.

"The professors we have in the department are very experienced and are part of the industry while they also teach, so the information they share with us is very valuable," Ward said.



Courtesy Photo College of Engineering and Computer Science

Pictured above are members of Sac State's Construction Management team who won first place in the Granite Collegiate Challenge. Top row: Angel Santa Cruz, Stretch Parsons, Zac Lukas, Ruslan Bachinsky. Bottom row: John Roscoe, Adam Della Monica, Matthew Ward, Nick Simonidis, Javire Maderos, Professor Mike Anderson and Raymond Zhong.

Macari believes that success in competitions like this helps to attract higher caliber students who normally would not think about going to Sac State.

"We are now attracting students who in the past would have only applied to UC Berkley, UC San Diego or Stanford," Macari said.

◀◀ ▶◀ ▶◀

Contact Andres Cuevas in News department at (916) 278-7248.

Police Log
STATEHORNET.COM

Nov. 9

Shampoo bottles were reported stolen from Yosemite Hall.

Officers stopped a man on La Riviera Drive at 11:37 p.m. and determined he had outstanding warrants. He was arrested and booked at Sacramento County Main Jail.

Nov. 10

A video camera was reported stolen from the University Union sometime in the last three months.

A woman told police that she was unable to locate her husband, who had traveled to campus with her that day. Officers located the man.

A student reported that her bike was stolen from a bike locker sometime between Nov. 7 and 10.

Nov. 12

A student told police that her unattended purse and chemistry textbook were taken from the library.

Officers executed a search warrant at an off-campus location and recovered stolen property from a man's house. He was arrested and charged with possession of stolen property.

Officers contacted two men on La Riviera Drive at 7:20 p.m. and arrested one of them for public drunkenness.

Nov. 13

Officers reponded to a call from the library of someone reporting money stolen. A report was taken.

- Research by Sam Pearson

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Rugby defeats SF State 134-0



File Photo State Hornet

A Sacramento State player recovers the rugby ball as his teammates take down the opposition. The Hornets recently beat San Francisco State 134-0 and the University of Arizona 25-5.

By Taylor Collis
tcollis@statehornet.com

The Sacramento State men's rugby club has kicked off its season with two victorious preseason games. The Hornets beat the University of Arizona 25-5, and on Saturday defeated San Francisco State in a blowout game 134-0.

"This is a great start for the year and has proved how mentally prepared we are," said senior first year captain Joe Romo.

The score against San Francisco State was abnormally high for rugby, which allowed players who don't get a lot of play time a chance to play and score, Romo said. Sixteen players scored in the game against San Francisco.

Freshman forward TJ Pedraza made the most attempts with four for five points each. This was the first time he's scored and is his first semester ever playing rugby.

"The first two tries I was focused on scoring and the last two I just went for it," Pedraza said.

Freshman forward Chris Turner made three attempts, which tripled his attempts in all four years of his high school rugby career. Newcomers Lucas Prueger, Nick Muhn and Julian David each made two attempts during the match.

Junior back Sundiata Cummings dominated in conversions with two points each, kicking eight conversions throughout the match. Once the team had a significant lead, junior back Tyler Wallace came in and kicked four conversions as well.

"I had to put power to the farther kicks," Cummings said.

Although the score showed how good the Hornets are this season, the team knew it had a lot of improving to do. The main concern was team communication and the fact that many of the attempts were scored because of loose plays and isolated runners. Usually the players try to stay in pairs, Head Coach Chris Miller said.

"We let the game get away from us and played down to their level in the scrums," Miller said.

"We were all very happy with this win, we did a lot of things right in today's match. The guys focused on the need for improvements because we also did a lot of things wrong today," club president Matt Ramey said. "By focusing on what we did wrong we can better ourselves for the coming game against St. Mary's and for the rest of the season."

The last preseason game was practice for the team before competing against tougher schools like Saint Mary's, Miller said.

"It was nice to get an extra game in before we play Saint Mary's," Miller said.

"We play in one of the toughest leagues in the country," said senior forward Jim Thompson.

The club plays teams that receive a lot more funding and have their own fields, senior forward Dan Guttierez said. The Hornets have a recreation field behind the soccer fields to practice and use for matches. The club plays teams like the University of California, Berkeley, which is the number one team in the nation, and Pac 10 schools like the University of Arizona.

"We're really stressed for funding and are undersized," Romo said. "So, you really have to have your heart in it to play."

The players don't let the size of the team affect how they play.

"I'd rather have 20 guys who can play than 50 guys who can't," Guttierez said.

Since the team is so small, it has been working on teamwork during practice with team activities like

see **Rugby** | page B3

Women play it up

Team comes back with only a few returning senior players

By Andrew McFadden
amcfadden@statehornet.com

The women's basketball team is ready to kick off its season, and despite the lack of returning experienced players, the team is confident it will have a successful season.

The goal of this team is two-fold. First, it wants to secure a spot in the Big Sky Tournament. The top six teams of the conference will compete and the winner will play in the NCAA tournament in March.

Sophomore captain and guard Sami Field-Polisso put it best by saying, "I think this season will be a failure if we don't reach the Big Sky Tournament, without a doubt."

Secondly, the team will be looking to end the season with its record above .500. With a 29 game season the bottom line is clear - it needs to end with a record of 15 wins and 14 losses, or better. The best way to do this? Simply defend its home turf at the Hornet's Nest.

Coach Dan Muscatell and his players agree that the best way to reach their goal is to strive for a perfect 12-0 record at home which will relieve some of the pressure they feel on the road and set them up to obtain both their goals.

This year's squad is able to boast only one senior, but the nucleus of the team is returning for its second season together and will be building upon familiarity with one another.

"I like our work ethic, our attitude, and our chemistry," Muscatell said. "This is a team that genuinely likes each other. They want to win the Big Sky and make the NCAA Tournament, they set that goal for themselves. That's what they are working toward, and that's exciting to work with everyday as a coach."

The team clearly possesses desire and potential, but what of the tools that it will require to translate that into victory? The team will be looking for leadership from its captains, most of all the team's single returning senior, forward and center Atty Boyer. Coming off her junior season, Boyer led the team in both scoring and rebounding averaging 12.6 points per game and 7.3 rebounds per game. Future success will be anchored upon consistent performances such as these.

The team's largest addition this season comes in the form of freshman center Karri Gallagher. Standing 6'3, Gallagher brings some much needed size to a team that has had to do without it over the past few years. Muscatell was clear in stating how important her role within the team is this year. He was quick to cite the Big Sky as a "shooter's conference" and explained the opportunity this presents.

"Not only will it create new strategic opportunities both offensively and defensively but having that inside option in a conference like the Big Sky can be the difference between a decisive

see **Basketball** | page B2

"He has a high basketball I.Q. He's actually further along (learning the new system) than most guys."

Brian Katz, men's basketball head coach

'Lo' brings talent back to the court



Jennifer Lemos State Hornet

Loren Leath shouts out commands to his teammates during practice.

By Felipe Molina
fmolina@statehornet.com

This year, the Sacramento State men's basketball team has many new faces. The team hired a new head coach and coaching staff and recruited 12 new players. There are still a few familiar faces left on the team, one of them is the Hornets' returning lead scorer, senior guard Loren "Lo" Leath.

Leath is one of only four Hornets who have scored more than 1,000 points since the Hornets joined Division 1 play - Leath has 1,052 career points. He is also ranked first in Sac State's Division 1 record book in three-pointers with 179. During the 2007-08 season, Leath averaged 13.1 points per game, and had 19 double point games. He was also among the Big Sky leaders as he was tied for fourth in steals, ninth in scoring and tenth in three-pointers.

"He can really shoot," Head Coach Brian Katz said. "If he shoots open shots he's really pretty accurate."

Leath describes his play as "killer, like (Allen) Iverson."

"When he's on the court, he's serious," team captain Justin Eller said. "He doesn't back down from any opponent and usually comes through in the clutch."

The new coaching staff has adopted a new play style and Leath has come into his senior season needing to learn

see **Leath** | page B2

INSIDE OR ONLINE AT STATEHORNET.COM

Volleyball Home Games

After going 1-1 on the road against Montana State and Montana, the Hornets return home for two games against Eastern Washington on Friday and Portland State on Saturday. Comprehensive game coverage for both games available Saturday night.

Online Saturday



Women's Basketball

After a rocky start in the season, with a 1-2 record, the Hornets will host Fresno State on Sunday at 2:05 p.m. Comprehensive game coverage will be online Sunday after the game.

Online Sunday



On 2nd Thought

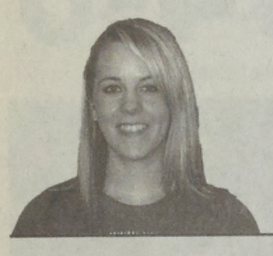
For years, sporting events have been inexpensive and fun to take a date, but which sport is the best for taking a date? See where the sports staffers would take their special someone on a sporting event date.

See Page B2

On 2nd Thought.

SPORTING DATES

What is the best sporting event to take a date to? The worst?



COLD NFL GAMES BRING YOU CLOSE

AmyLewis

Going on a date to a sporting event can be one of the most fun ways to spend time with your "special someone," but it can also be a dating disaster. The sporting event of choice depends on a couple of factors. If it is a first date I wouldn't suggest something incredibly loud like basketball or football (unless you know ahead of time that the sport is your date's favorite).

If it is a date with someone you have dated before then I would have to say that football would be your best bet (assuming that your date likes football). A football game is a great place to go on a date for a number of reasons.

First, football is a fall sport, meaning the weather is beginning to get chilly outside. It's perfect weather for snuggling up with someone underneath a thick Oakland Raiders blanket (yes, I had to sneak my Raiders in here somewhere).

Second, people get very involved in the game. "Why did he make that call?" "It's about time they took Jamarcus Russell out." "Do you think he can make that field goal?" The conversation topics are endless so you never have to have one of those "awkward silence" moments.

The last reason a football game is such a good place for a date is that being a football fan is a lot like being in a relationship. There are ups and downs, good times and bad (unfortunately for my Raiders it's been mostly bad), and times that you wish you could just bail out, but in the end you love that team (or person) and you just can't leave them (unless maybe you're a Lions fan).

The worst sporting event to take a date on would be golf. Golf is not a spectator sport. No one wants to stand on their feet for hours following someone in khaki pants and collared shirts around.

Bringing a date to a golf tournament is just inviting them to spend one very long "awkward silence" moment with you. Except for the occasional clapping there wouldn't be any opportunity for conversation. Not that there are any topics to talk about. "Oh I really don't know about that nine iron, don't you think he should be using the seven?" Or better yet, "Why don't golfers wear those nifty little plaid pants and tall socks anymore?" If those topics don't stir any romantic chemistry between two people I don't know what will. And yes, you are detecting sarcasm.



NBA HAS THE ATMOSPHERE YOU NEED

RonnieNurss

Hands down, the best sporting event to take a date to is an NBA basketball game. Basketball has everything to offer for an awesome date, so I'll break down the basics.

1) NBA basketball always takes place inside an arena so you and your date can wear comfortable clothes and dress to impress. Way better than freezing your ass off in 10 layers of clothing at a football game. Forecast of rain, snow, or triple digit heat? No problem.

2) Basketball is an exciting, fast paced game with numerous breaks and timeouts. This allows many chances to talk game and get to know your date, share laugh or two, get your flirt on, etc.

3) You have all kinds of food and beverage options. At Arco Arena, home of the Kings, you have the quick hot dog stand option or actual restaurants offering meals from seafood to steak. Same goes with drinks. Grab a beer or margarita at the bar, or you can enjoy a Sprite or Icee.

5) Basketball usually takes place during the evening and is a great stress reducer from a long day of work or school. It is usually a three hour event, which is perfect for a date. And games will wrap up around 10 p.m., with still plenty of the night left.

6) If the date completely sucks and you guys just don't gel, she has the NBA athletes to check out and you always have the cheerleaders, or dancers, to keep you busy.

You cannot go wrong with taking a date to a basketball game. The rules are easy for anybody to understand compared to football, and you are actually watching exciting, athletic athletes, unlike baseball. Oh yeah, and Kings tickets are now starting at an affordable 10 bucks.

The worst sport to take a date to, and no matter how much this hurts me to admit, is soccer. I personally think soccer is the greatest sport to watch, even over basketball. For a date though? Hell no. Soccer offers no breaks or timeouts and is more of a culture than a spectator sport. Unless your date is a soccer fan, the typical person will not be patient or knowledgeable enough to keep sane the whole match and actually appreciate the sport.



MLB IS SLOW AND STEADY FOR A DATE

AndrewMcFadden

If you're in a relationship and seeking a way to expose your significant other to your fanatical, irrational and unexplainable love of sport, there is only one safe way to get that poor, unsuspecting soul's feet wet. And that's baseball.

The reasons are simple. It's a long, slow game that affords you time for plenty for conversation, explanation and food. Control yourself though! This is no time for garlic fries. Within the modern ball park we see the perfect date scenario created. First, there are sports. Which means the men are happy. Secondly, since the pace of a professional game is slow, the men can afford to split their attention and participate in conversation that expands beyond senseless muttering. Thus, the women are happy. Next, baseball is a summer game. So, unless you have terrible luck, good weather is guaranteed. Lastly, this event requires a time commitment. You don't have to be creative and spontaneous and have the most amazing solution to, "What do you want to do next?" You will sit and watch the next pitch, and the pitch after that, and the pitch after that. And best of all, you will receive service at your seat offering all of the best treats you could ask for.

Now, for those of you who are thinking you're such an awesome jock that you could take your special person to the sport of your choice and maintain your "fandom" and her interest simultaneously, you're just flat out wrong.

You could take her to the basketball game, but as you jump and scream, hoot and holler, and boo and hiss, the action will have progressed on to the next

See the rest of article at **statehornet.com**

TELL US YOUR ON-SECOND THOUGHT

Comment, discuss and give your thoughts on which sport offers the best date environment for your special someone at statehornet.com

Rugby: Hornets beat SF State, launch head-first into season

Continued | page B1

morning runs. The team is still recruiting and will take any level of player. Many of the newcomers this season have never played rugby before.

"We have good potential in the area and we're always taking walk-ons," Romo said.

However, don't confuse rugby with football, Romo said. These sports are very different and require different skills.

"It's a different approach to the game. In football, there are hard quick hits. Rugby is more of a continuous flow and is more mentally demanding," Romo said.

Rugby players are continuously running and don't stop until they score. If a player is tackled, they push the ball backwards to their teammate and just keep going. They play for a total of 80-minutes with only a 10-minute break at half time.

"A team shows how mentally in the game they are if they don't let the 'owwies' and injuries affect them," Romo said.

"It's all about 14 guys trying to help one guy score," Guttierez said.

Last year, the rugby team ended the season with only three victories. Already, the team is one win away from beating that record.

"We're focused more on training this semester," Romo said. "We just need to stay focused and play hard. The wins will come."

The first official league games will be against Saint Mary's, which is ranked sixth in the nation, at the Intramural Field at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Dec. 6. Each match is a different skill level. The first match is the A side and the second match is the B side.

"We're not going to have as many loose plays against Saint Mary's," Miller said. "Saint Mary's is a strong pack and we need more structure."



File Photo State Hornet

The players stack each other up to get the ball. The Hornets wind up a torso short.

Contact Taylor Collis in the Sports department at (916) 278-5145.

"Not only will it create new, strategic opportunities both offensively and defensively, but having that inside option in a conference like the Big Sky can be the difference between a decisive victory and crushing defeat."

Dan Muscatell, women's basketball head coach

Basketball: Women's goal is to make the Big Sky Conference

Continued | page B1

victory and crushing defeat," Muscatell said.

Gallagher's teammates understand how critical her contribution will be as well.

"Karri doesn't have time to be a freshman," said junior forward Erika Edwards. "In order for us to succeed she needs to perform and she has been doing a great job of that."

"She has a lot of pressure on her shoulders. The coaches are not treating her like a freshman," said junior forward Charday Hunt. "We need for her to perform like an upper classman."

Outside of the need for strong individual play, the Hornets will need to make improvements in other areas of team play if it plans to be successful.

Defensively, the team allowed their opponent to score over 70 ppg last year. If the Hornets plan to keep pace with their adversaries' point production, its defense will need to limit them to no more than 60 ppg this season. The Hornets will be counting on the leadership, wisdom, and maturity of returning players to improve its offense.

The team will need to take better care of the ball and reduce turnovers, and the field goal percentage will be looking to improve as well, by a simple means of better shot selection. Additionally, players will need to sustain these efforts through all 40 minutes of each game.

Last year's team was able to start strong in the first half of games but after halftime had difficulties sustaining a high level of play. This year's improvements will need to be consistent, as will player's effort.

With the road clear and the desire to charge ahead, there is only one looming hurdle on the horizon that could prove too devious to overcome for the team: the injury bug.

While the team plays with heart, promise, and confidence, the possibility of losing a star like Boyer, or a key tactical player like Gallagher could prove insurmountable.

In the past, random strikes from this foe have gotten the best of this team and have had a profound impact. The players understand this and they enter this season recovering from injuries including knee surgeries and broken noses. With this in mind, the players recognize their health and conditioning throughout the season may be as critical as the effort they provide on the court 40 minutes a night.

The Hornets next home game will be against Fresno State at 2:05 p.m. on Sunday at the Hornet's Nest.

Contact Andrew McFadden in the Sports department at (916) 278-5145.

SUDOKU!

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Leath: Returning seniors help new players adapt to team

Continued | page B1

this new coaching system to help his new group of teammates adjust to play on the college courts.

"He has a high basketball I.Q.," Katz said. "He's actually probably further along (learning the new system) than most guys."

Senior forward and fellow returnee Donald Thomas agrees with Katz on Leath's high basketball I.Q.

"He's really smart," Thomas said. "With the system we're in he really sets good screens, and when you get good screens in Katz's system you usually get wide open shots."

Coming into this season, Leath's goals are the same as any season.

"My goal every year is to just get better," Leath said.

Over the summer Leath worked on training his strength and quickness to help improve his game.

"I kept working on the basketball aspect, but really just wanted to get stronger and faster and work on my athletic ability," Leath said.

His hard work hasn't stopped, as Katz said he has been impressed with Leath's improvement and his decision making on offense.

"I'm most impressed right now that he's making an effort to defend and rebound. He worked on some things he needed to work on," Katz said.

"He keeps working and making good decisions offensively with the ball, I can see him ending up being a pretty formidable threat."

On the basketball court Leath is serious, but off the court his personality and comical side comes out.

"He's a good teammate overall. He's really funny and likes to crack on all the dudes," Thomas said. "He's kind of the comedian of the group."

"Lo's a good teammate. Off the court he's kind of more laid back, goofy a little bit, jokes around with the team; I like to have fun with Lo," Eller said.

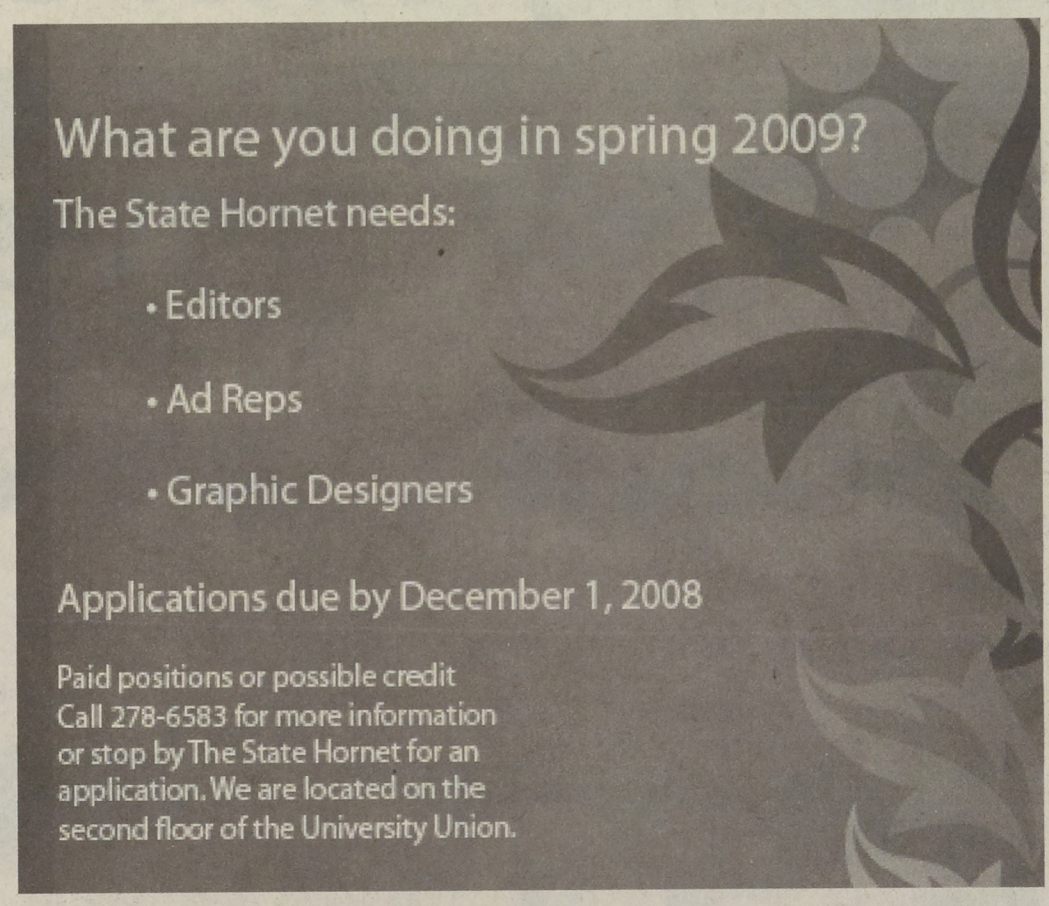
> **"We play real hard; we're focused on defense. The coaching staff really nitpicks at certain things and that's what we need. I think we're going to do well (this season)."**
>
> **Loren Leath,** men's basketball senior guard

The Hornets' men's basketball team has a hard road ahead of it as the majority of the team is learning Katz's new system. With leadership from Leath and the other returnees, Leath is optimistic about the season.

"We play real hard, we're really focused on defense," Leath said. "(The coaching staff) really nitpicks at certain things and that's what we need. I think we're going to do well."

Contact Felipe Molina in the Sports department at (916) 278-5145.



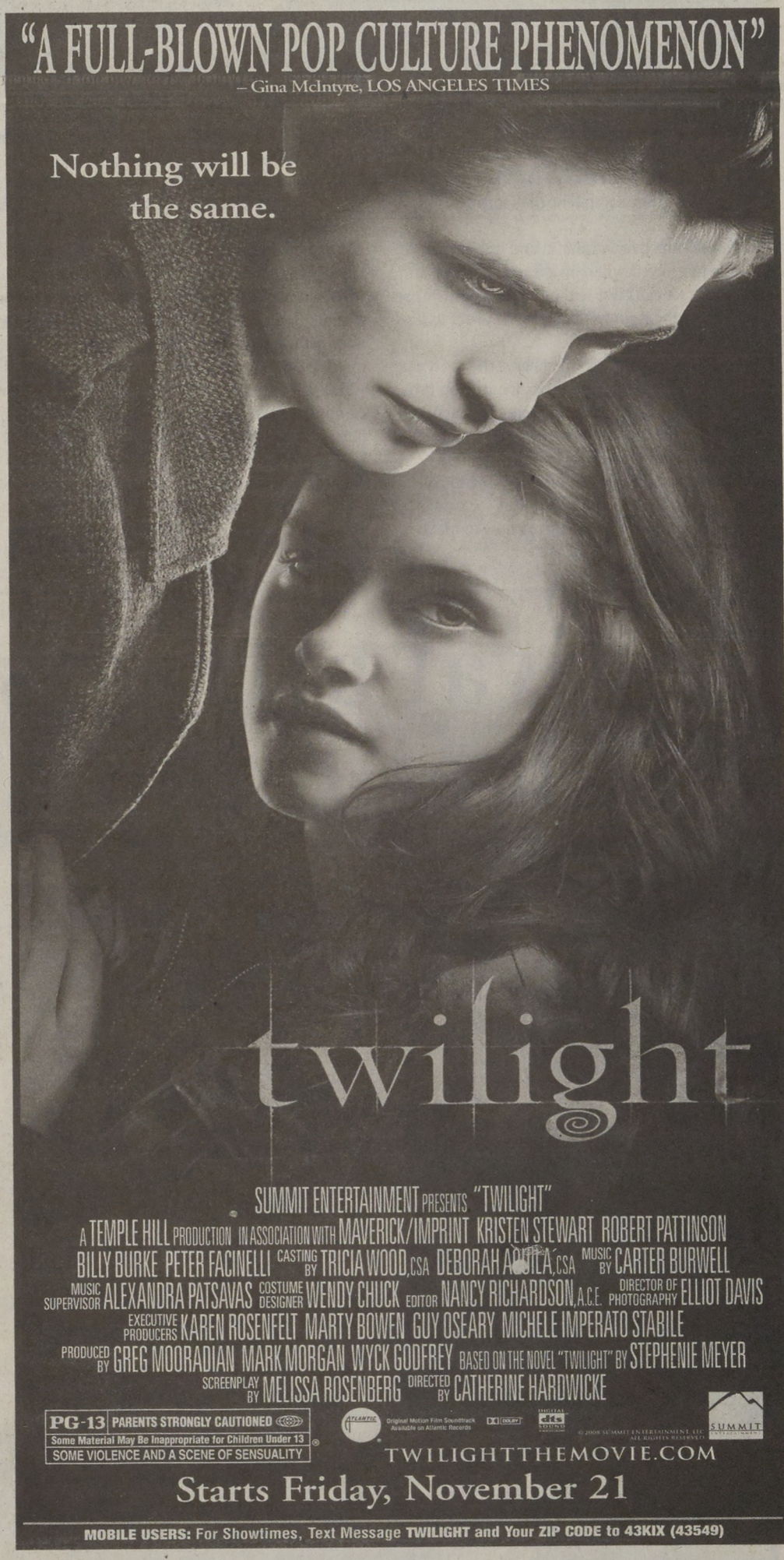


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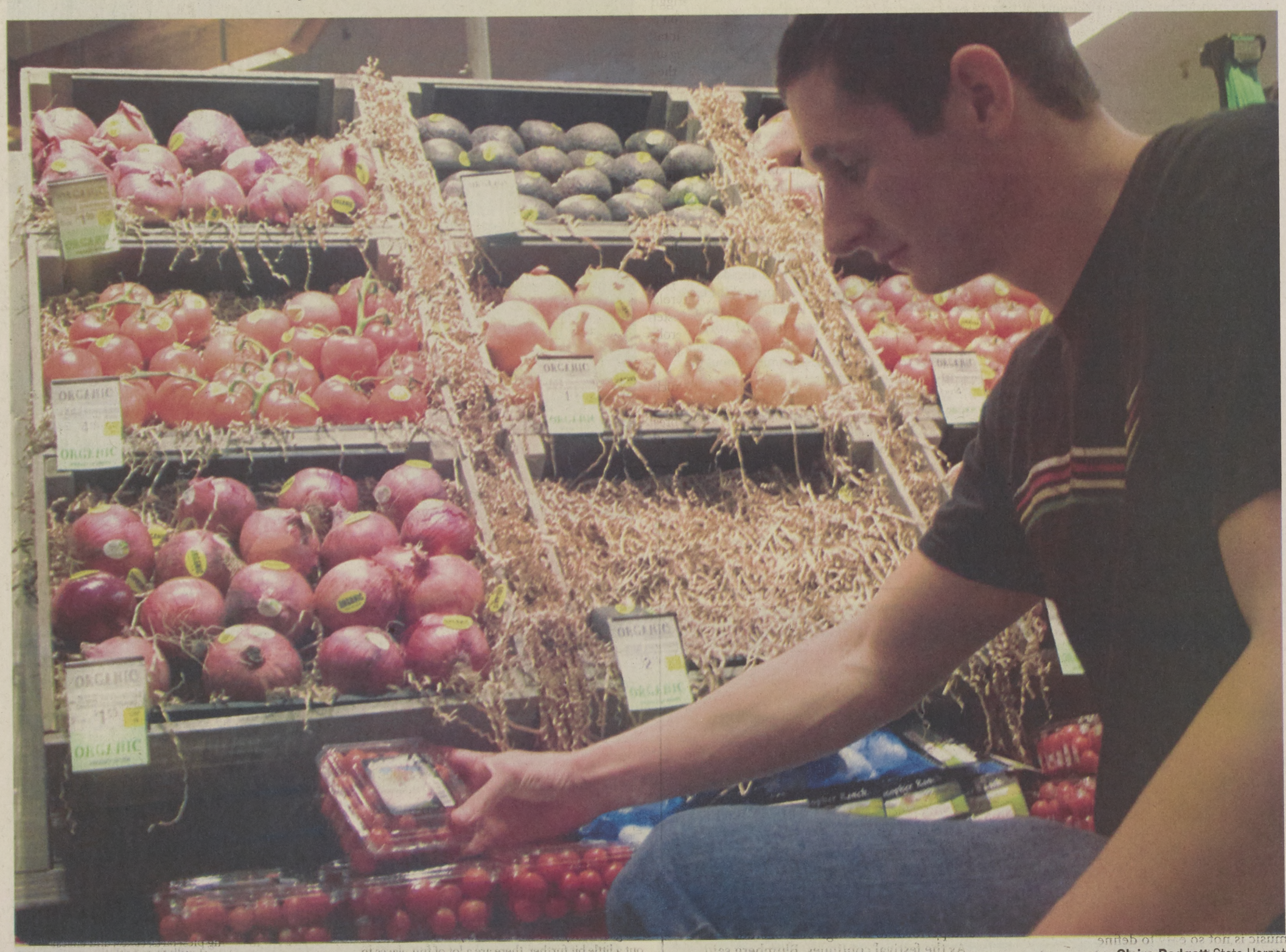
Women's Basketball	Football	Volleyball	Men's Soccer
11/14	11/8	11/14	11/9
UNLV 92	Sac State 45	Montana State 0	Sac State 1
Sac State 71	North Colorado 25	Sac State 3	UNLV 0
11/16	11/15	11/15	11/15
Oregon State 100	UC Davis 19	Montana 3	San Jose State 4
Sac State 45	Sac State 29	Sac State 0	Sac State 1
1-2 Overall	6-5 Overall	9-21 Overall	9-9-2 Overall
0-0 Conference	3-4 Conference	7-7 Conference	3-7 Conference
Hornets play at Santa Clara on 11/20 and host Fresno State on 11/23 at 2:05 p.m.	Hornets play at Idaho State on 11/22 for the final game of their season.	Hornets host Eastern Washington and Portland State on 11/21 & 11/22 at 7 p.m.	







Healthy eats: Cutting out junk



Claire Padgett State Hornet

Sophomore criminal justice major Stephen Shope shops for vegetables at a local supermarket. Experts suggest that higher protein intake and healthy food might mean going off of campus.

By Stephanie Dumm
sdumm@statehornet.com

Food. We can't live without it, and it is certainly available to us everywhere in every way, shape and form. Since we can't live without it, it is very important to make the right food choices in order to have a long and happy life.

As college students, this isn't always the most easy thing to do. Wendy Cunningham, a nutrition professor at Sacramento State, said being independent for the first time is one reason why some college students gain that dreaded freshman 15.

She said that up until the point of going to college, someone else made food choices for students, and so some may not have learned how to make healthy food choices for themselves.

In college, parents are not around to tell us to finish our vegetables, or putting the kibosh on pizza for dinner four nights in a row.

"Most people prefer the unhealthy choices, as sugar and fat enhance the flavor and since we think we shouldn't have them and want them even more," Cunningham said. "The huge availability of them once in college makes them very tempting and we often indulge."

This is true, because a lot of the food choices on campus are fast food, which doesn't always make it easy to eat healthfully at school. Louella Ilog, a health science major here at Sac State, said that Round Table would be her favorite place to eat on campus. But to stay healthy she prefers Subway, which just opened next to the Hornet Bookstore last week.

"Subway would be my choice, just because it's not as greasy as all of the stuff that is out here," she said.

For those looking for ways to avoid putting on extra weight while away at school, Cunningham offered up some helpful tips for eating healthy on the go at Sac State.

With our crazy schedules and mounting piles of homework, caffeine can be a necessity for some students. This makes sense, since the campus dining guide on the Sac State website lists six Java City locations on our campus.

Some of the drinks, like lattes and mochas, contain a lot of sugar and fat, but there are ways to avoid sabotaging your diet and still get that all-important caffeine fix. Cunningham suggested asking for nonfat milk and leaving the whipped cream off of your beverage.

Despite all of the unhealthy food that is available to us on campus, Cunningham also had some other suggestions for how to make more health-conscious decisions when purchasing lunch on campus. She said that instead of having mayonnaise or special sauce on sandwiches and hamburgers, mustard is the way to go.

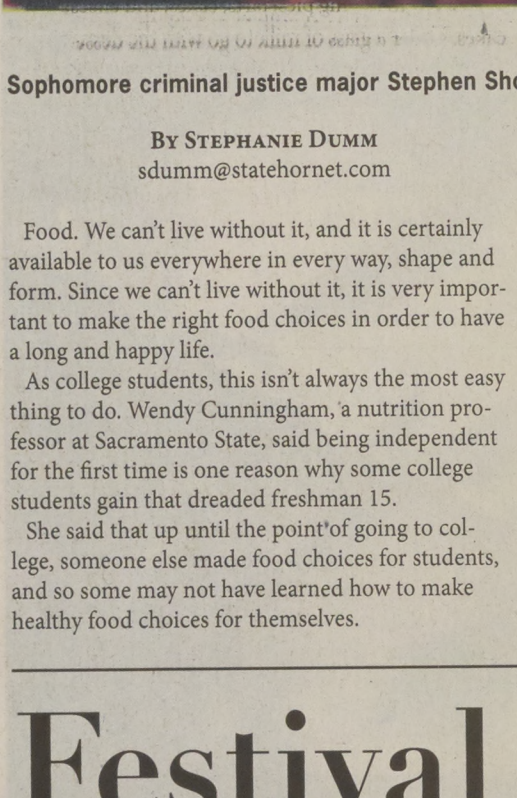
She also said that some other options for food are teriyaki chicken rice bowls, soft tacos or burritos.

Of course, there is always the option of packing a lunch for school, or even cooking dinner at home. Ilog enjoys cooking pasta at home. She said that this is because she has always loved Italian food, and pasta is relatively easy to cook.

Veeramrit Randhawa, a biology major, has a

see **Food** | page B5

Festival attracts musical talents



Susie Dickens State Hornet

Composer and percussionist, Lukas Ligeti, plays his marimba lumina during the Festival of New American Music on Nov. 12.

By Kyrie Eberhart
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The Sacramento Festival of New American Music hosted by Sacramento State combined all genres of music and incorporated a new instrument: the computer.

Music professor and the festival's artistic director Stephen Blumberg said he believes the festival is the oldest of its kind, and in the time since its first year, the styles of new music have "changed drastically."

"There's a multiply of different styles that co-exist…the use of computers have had a huge influence, and a lot of new instruments have been invented now that uses electronics," Blumberg said.

Electronic percussionist Lukas Ligeti is one of these musicians. Using an "electronic marimba" called a Marimba Lumina, Ligeti is able to play his instrument while using a computer to incorporate sounds he has collected as he performs.

"I'm happy to be here. It's a great festival and a great place to play," Ligeti said.

Each year a number of visitors flock to Sac State to see such performances. Blumberg said people are drawn to the festival because the music is new, various and admis-

see **Music** | page B5

"One of the best dates a guy has taken me on was ice skating downtown. It was cute that he thought of that instead of just going to dinner like every other guy does."

Luba Kalinina, international business major

Date destinations

By Casey Kirk
ckirk@statehornet.com

Picture this: You finally convinced that smokin' hot girl from your Spanish class to go on a date with you. You promised her that it is going to be a date she'll never forget. However, there's only one problem: You have no idea where to take her.

Most people have gone the traditional dinner or movie route before, perhaps even adding a romantic walk in the mix to change things up. But while these ho-hum choices are acceptable, they most likely won't sweep your date off his or her feet.

Some dates are obvious Sacramento activities: the Sacramento Zoo, a Kings Game, or the IMAX theater downtown. But you may not be aware of the many other date destinations around town.

If you're seeking some real adventure, Cheers Over California is a hot air balloon company based out of Sacramento. The balloon "pilot" will take you and your date on a scenic trip over Placer County. Plus, a bottle of champagne can be brought aboard to make things even more romantic. While it might be a little awkward to share a moment with the pilot looking on, a hot air balloon ride is nonetheless an unforgettable date.

Looking for adventure but don't have the cash for extravagance? Sacramento State students get a discount at the Sac State Aquatic Center in Gold River by Lake Natoma. Couples can rent double kayaks, canoes, or paddleboats for $10 an hour. After exploring the enormous waterway, daters can paddle over to the beach areas for a picnic at sunset.

Requiring even more energy, but still a bargain, is a jump-fest at Sky High. Located in Sacramento, the enormous gymnasium has walls, ceilings, and floors made up of trampolines. It only costs $9 per hour to jump to your heart's content and is definitely a way to break the uncomfortable ice that goes along with dating. Just try not too sweat too much; that could be a deal breaker.

As winter approaches, a somewhat cliché but still really cool (pun intended) date is ice-skating. A bonus of this activity is that holding hands is almost imperative to keep balance on the wobbly blades. At Iceland Ice Skating Rink in Sacramento on Del Paso Road, skaters can receive lessons for $15. Also, the staff gives free tours of one of the oldest ice plants in California. If you're looking for an excuse to cuddle up for warmth, the outdoor ice-skating rink on K Street is open for winter. Afterward, freezing skaters can pop into the nearby Starbucks for hot chocolate to warm up.

"One of the best dates a guy has taken me on was ice skating downtown. It was cute that he thought of that instead of just going to dinner like every other guy does," said international business major Luba Kalinina.

If you're not quite ready for bumps and bruises that go along with skating, play it safe at Monster Mini-

see **Dates** | page B5

Food: On-the-go healthy eating tips; increase protein, less sugar



Graphic By Martin Wood State Hornet

Continued | page B4

favorite meal to cook that is commonly known as a breakfast item, but will suffice for any time of day: omelets.

"It's frigging delicious," Randhawa said. "You put sausage, eggs, ham, spices; it tastes so bomb!"

Having an omelet is a great way to start the day, regardless of the cleanup factor, because eggs are a good source of protein. Proteins are important because they help build important parts of our bodies, such as muscles, skin and blood, according to Mypyramid.gov

Eggs are pretty high in cholesterol with 215 milligrams of cholesterol in one egg, which is 71 percent of your daily recommended value of cholesterol. Mypyramid.gov said that it is the yolk of the egg that contains cholesterol, and that egg whites have no cholesterol. If concerned about cholesterol, make your omelets or scrambled eggs using the egg whites only.

One quick, on-the-go breakfast idea involves eggs, a pita, some cooked breakfast sausage and should only take about 10 minutes to make. Basically, just scramble some eggs, crumble some breakfast sausage in with the eggs until both are cooked. Fill a pita or two with the egg and sausage mixture, and you have a quick breakfast for your walk or drive to school.

Snacks are also important for pick-me-ups during the day. Cunningham said healthy alternatives to candy and chips are air popped popcorn, baby carrots and low fat cheese sticks.

When it comes to lunch and dinner, there are some small changes and things that can be added into meals to make them healthier, while still tasting delicious.

Instead of using regular pasta with your spaghetti and meatballs, try using whole grain pasta. Mypyramid.gov says that whole grains in general provide dietary fiber, and that whole grains reduce cholesterol, lower the risk of heart disease and help keep you regular, to put it politely. The website also says that whole grains make you feel fuller without extra calories.

Other ways to get whole grain in your diet is to eat whole grain bread and whole grain rice. One helpful tip to keep your whole grain rice and pastas from being chewy is to cook them longer than you would cook normal pasta or rice, by about five minutes.

Sneaking vegetables into already tasty meals is also a great way to eat the foods you like while getting all of the nutrients that vegetables offer.

Ramen noodles are often joked about as being a staple of the average college student's diet, but there are things that can be done to make these noodles a little more nutritious. While cooking the noodles either on the stove or in the microwave, throw in some chopped up bell peppers and snap peas, or whatever veggies you prefer.

Mypyramid.gov also had some suggestions for ways to get in the two and a half cups of vegetables you need every day. It said to have a salad with dinner every night, planning meals around vegetables, and also to try ordering a pizza with vegetables only, instead of pepperoni and sausage.

It also suggests keeping cut up pieces of fruits and vegetables in the fridge for easy grab-and-go snacking.

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Contact Stephanie Dumm in the Features department at (916) 278-4155.

"What I tell people is that it's new, it's American, and it's music. We can't define it, because so many people approach it differently."

Stephan Blumberg, artistic director

Music: Festival incorporates new technology; musicians play instruments, computers

Continued | page B4

sion is completely free.

But what is new American music?

"It's all inclusive in terms of genre and style, anything goes. There are not any expectations," said Harry Sadler, voice and composition major.

However, Blumberg, who has directed the festival since 2006, said that new American music is not so easy to define.

"What I tell people is that it's new, it's American, and it's music," he said. "We can't define it, because so many people approach it differently."

Blumberg said that they have tried to represent all styles in the years since the festival began, including jazz, classical and even some rock.

Visitors to Sac State experienced these styles for themselves from Nov. 6 to Sunday.

The festival was founded 31 years ago by Gene Savage, a professor of piano at the time. Savage's vision had been for Sacramento to be the center for new American music.

"European music dominated the concert halls. Gene wanted a festival that brought focus on American music," Blumberg said.

While some performers traveled from as far away as New York, such as clarinetist Jean Kopperud, some were closer to home. The Festival Ensemble, made up of Sac State faculty members and local professionals, play especially for the festival.

Some groups had a variety just in the combination of instruments they included. The San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, for example, had one group of players playing a trumpet, trombone, harp, mandolin, guitar, and vibraphone.

Interior design major Heidi Bohn attended the Music Players' concert, and said she enjoyed the experience.

"It's not something I would think I would listen to. But once I got into it, I could appreciate it," Bohn said.

The Festival of New American music is not just about performances. Master classes were set up so students could learn from the musicians. The performers would instruct students learning the same instrument for one hour.

"What an opportunity for students to learn from a master and get their feedback," assistant director Keith Bohm said.

Students themselves had a chance to showcase their skills with the Student Artist Performance Competition and Student Composers Performance Competition.

In the Student Artist Performance, music majors who audition for and are accepted into the competition must play solo or with a small group, a piece made after 1980. Those students do all the rehearsing and preparing, before playing in front of three judges who are not Sac State professors.

Music performance major Alex Winter, who was in the competition, called the experience "nerve-racking."

"But it has its benefits. We're about to put on a recital, so it's good practice," Winter said.

Bohm said not only college students benefit from the festival, but so do the surrounding high schools.

"It's an outreach program," he said. "Musicians from the festival go to the high schools and perform to the high school students."

As the festival continues, Blumberg said, there might be a change in how inter-media is incorporated into music.

"Maybe they'll be more composers who work with more visual video, or who use dance and theatre," he said.

If there's one change that he does not want, it is for the festival to have a fee.

"From the beginning, a kind of mission statement has been that the festival is free to the public," Blumberg said.

Funding, he says, is always a problem. Various donors such as Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission and the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation help pay the musicians for their performance, yet with the economic problems, financing from other organizations are becoming harder to get.

"I hope we can continue to fund it," he said.

As of now, the Festival of New American Music is continuing to be what it has been for more than 30 years. And for Bohm, that's the best thing.

"I think the greatest part about the festival is that the students and the community have an opportunity to hear world renowned performers in a concert setting."

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Contact Kyrie Eberhart in the Features department at (916) 278-4155.

Dates: Skip dinner, movie; try these new hot spots for next date

Continued | page B4

Golf in Sacramento. Traditional golf gets a makeover with the glow-in-the dark course. The course's golf clubs, balls and walls are covered in fluorescent paint and black lights set everything aglow. Randomly throughout the course, glow-in-the dark monsters pop out at golfers. Also, the course sometimes has its own disc jockey to make the game even more exciting.

Continuing with the glow-in-the dark theme, Strikes bowling alley in Rocklin turns off the lights and has glow bowling every Thursday and Friday. A couple can spend hours having a blast listening to live music at Coach's, the in-house bar. There is also an arcade, rock climbing and laser tag so that if your date isn't a big fan of the chic bowling shoes, you can choose another activity without leaving the venue.

If gas money isn't an issue and you want to venture out a little bit further, there are a lot of fun places to visit that will satisfy any date.

"I took a girl up to Squaw Valley Ski Resort one day and taught her to snowboard. After a long day on the slopes, we drove back and I took her to dinner at Scott's Seafood on the River. It was a long date with a little bit of travel but she loved it," business accounting major Nate Udy said.

A little closer to Sac, Apple Hill is one of the best places to visit during the fall months. Visitors can stay busy at over 50 ranches and go wine tasting, cider tasting, or sample pies. A whole day could easily be spent walking the grounds and enjoying the autumn scenery.

If alternatives to dinner dates really aren't your style, at least add a twist to the tried-and-true. Sactown has a few fun places that make eating more than just that. L Wine Bar on L Street has over 30 wines by the glass and 80 by the bottle. You can impress your date with your wine knowledge or learn together. For a weekday date, the lounge has "WoW" (Wine on Wednesdays) themed wine tasting, with a different winery every week.

The Melting Pot on 15th Street makes eating interactive with its fondue menu. Meats and veggies are brought out raw and the sauce or cheese of your choice is cooked right on the table's burners. For dessert, a sampler of cakes and fruit is brought out for dipping in melted chocolate.

If you have a sweet tooth but aren't up to preparing your own dessert, Rick's Dessert Diner on K Street will gladly do the work. Its menu has more than 280 types of desserts including pies, tarts, cakes, and cheesecakes. Order a glass of milk to go with the dessert diner's handmade eateries and snuggle into one of the its cozy booths. The diner stays open to 1 a.m. on the weekends, so Rick's makes a perfect ending destination on a date.

You've only got one chance to make a good impression on your date. Don't forgo your chance at round two by choosing a lame spot.

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Contact Casey Kirk in the Features department at (916) 278-4155.

CORRECTION

In Stephanie Dumm's last article, "Veterans benefit from donations," which ran on Nov. 12, it was printed that the veterans' clothing drive would continue to collect clothing until that day. This was an error; the Veteran's clothing drive ended on Nov. 10.

The State Hornet apologizes for the error.

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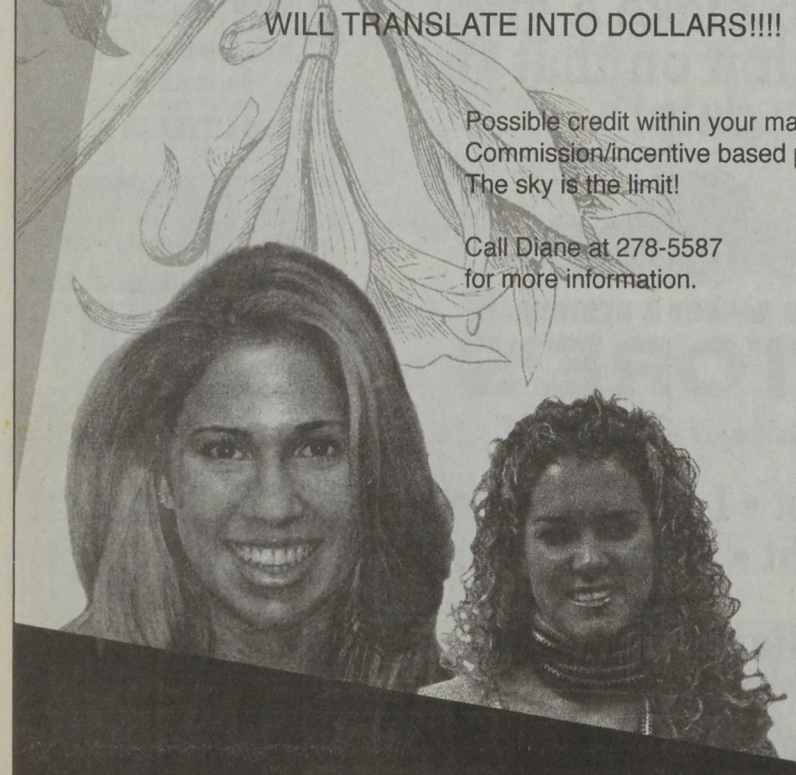
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